THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JANUARY 12, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

India beat New Zealand by 4 wickets in first ODI

Virat Kohli struck a 91-ball 93, while captain Shubman Gill made 56 as India beat New Zealand by four wickets in the first ODI to go 1-0 up in the three-match series in Vadodra on Sunday. Earlier, Indian bowlers restricted New Zealand to 300 for 8. Kohli smashed eight fours and one six to help India overhaul the target of 301 with six balls to spare. Shreyas Iyer chipped in with 49 as India reached 306 for 6 in 49 overs | P13

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Revenue &
Department of School Education & Literacy
And
Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board,
Kalaburagi

Venue : Yedrami Taluk, Jewargi Constituency, Kalaburagi District
Date : January 12, 2026
Time : 11:00 am

Shri D.K.Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka.

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge
Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha.

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Shri Krishna Byregowda; Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, IT & BT and Kalaburagi District In-charge Minister, Shri Priyank Kharge; Hon'ble Minister for Planning and Statistics, Shri D. Sudhakar; and Chairman, KKRDB, Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh, during an official review meeting on the Praja Soudha developmental initiatives in the Kalyana Karnataka Region.

Hon'ble Minister for the School Education & Literacy, Shri Madhu Bangarappa; Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Dr.Sharanaprakash R Patil; and Chairman, KKRDB, Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh, during an official review meeting on the educational initiatives under the Akshara Aavishkara programme in the Kalyana Karnataka Region.

New Praja Soudha Projects in Kalyana Karnataka region

₹163.55 Crore Investment
for construction of
New Praja Soudha Buildings
(Public Administrative Buildings)

Approval of 300 New Karnataka Public Schools in Kalyana Karnataka region

₹600-₹900 Crore Investment for construction of
300 New Karnataka Public Schools
200 Schools funded by KKRDB
100 Schools funded by the Education Department

Foundation stone laying is being undertaken for various developmental projects in Yedrami and Jewargi taluks, involving an expenditure of ₹879.16 Crore across 96 works,

Extending Our Heartfelt Welcome To Everyone.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 12.01.2026 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Dakhsinayana
• Ritu: Himanth • Masa: Pausa • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Navami 1.42 pm
• Nakshatra: Swathi 10.18 pm • Moon in Vrischika rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 17°C | MAX 26°C
FORECAST
Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 06.45 am
Sunset 06.10 pm
Moonrise 01.13 am
Moonset 12.59 pm

TICKING FIRE BOMBS

Illegal fuel delivery trucks running in city

Over 50 petrol bunk owners operating such trucks, ignoring safety norms, probe finds

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S crowded streets are seeing a serious concern with the unchecked movement of illegal mobile fuel tankers called bowsers operating without the mandatory safety clearances.

An investigation found that over 50 petrol bunk owners in and around the city are running these unauthorised vehicles, raising fears of a major accident in densely populated neighbourhoods. Former Petroleum Dealers Association president BR Ravindranath said "99.99%" of these bowsers do not comply with safety norms prescribed by the government and oil companies. "The rules are stringent and meant to ensure safety, but these illegal operations ignore them completely. Something drastic has to be done," he said.

A source said these bowsers are used to refuel tourist buses in crowded areas and pointed out how dangerous it is as in many of these parking areas there are 20-30 buses and thousands of people at any given time. While oil companies do operate licensed door-to-door fuel delivery services under strict Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) guidelines, officials and industry representatives say a parallel illegal network has emerged. Small trucks are reportedly fitted with fuel tanks and dispensing pumps, allowing bunk owners to deliver diesel directly to customers.

Industry sources estimate that over 50 bunk owners are operating such unauthorised bowsers. By supplying fuel directly to construction sites, industries and apartment complexes running diesel generator sets, dealers are able to secure bulk sales, often at a premium and, in some cases, outside official billing channels. Many of these vehicles allegedly do not possess the mandatory Form XIV licence required for transporting and dispensing Class B explosives such as diesel.

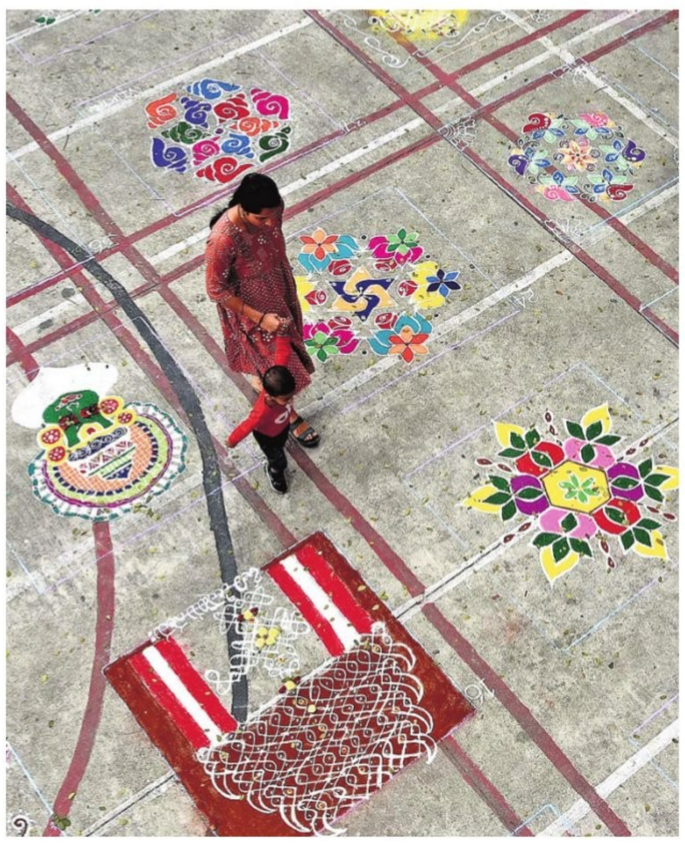
Safety experts warn that these bowsers pose a "catastrophic" risk as they carry between 1,000 and 12,000 litres of highly flammable fuel through residential areas and busy office spaces. "A minor road accident, a spark, or even static electricity during fuel transfer could trigger a massive fire or explosion," said a retired fire safety official. "Unlike authorised tankers, these vehicles often lack protective double layered tanks, emergency shut-off valves and proper grounding systems. This concept itself is dangerous."

> We spend crores on safety infrastructure and compliance, but illegal tankers are delivering fuel directly to clients without any accountability
>
> Petroleum dealer

Among the key violations flagged are the absence of geo-fencing, which restricts licensed bowsers to designated areas; the use of substandard hoses and pumps prone to leakage; and untrained drivers who are unaware of emergency procedures for spills or flash fires.

Apart from safety concerns, law-abiding petrol dealers say the illegal trade is hurting legitimate businesses. "We spend crores on safety infrastructure and compliance, but illegal tankers are delivering fuel directly to clients without any accountability," said a petroleum dealer.

Despite repeated complaints to the Department of Food and Civil Supplies and local police, illegal operations are continuing, often clandestinely. Industry bodies and safety experts are now demanding immediate action, including joint inspections by the RTO and PESO, seizure of unauthorised vehicles, and strict penalties for retail outlets found filling illegal bowsers.



BATTLE OF PATTERNS

A woman and her child admire rangolis created during a competition organised by the Telugu Vignana Samithi in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

ANNUAL METRO FARE HIKE OF 5% TO KICK IN FROM FEB

INDRA S @Bengaluru

BENGALUREANS may soon have to dig deeper into their pockets for daily travel, with Namma Metro fares set for an annual increase from February, as per the recommendation of the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC), which suggested up to five per cent hike in ticket charges every year.

The move comes barely a year after Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) implemented a steep fare revision in February 2025, that raised ticket prices by up to 71%, making Namma Metro the most expensive Metro system in the country. The likely hike will add to the growing financial strain on public transport users.

The proposed year-on-year fare hike has triggered sharp reactions from commuters, many of whom said public transport is slowly slipping out of reach for ordinary citizens. "Metro travel is meant to be affordable, not a premium service," said Vinod Kumar, a daily commuter. "After last year's hike, this feels like adding insult to injury."

BMRCL had implemented the 2025 fare revision after accepting the FFC's recommendations that is legally binding under Section 33 of the Metro Railways (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2002. The same framework now enables annual fare revisions until a new Fare Fixation Committee is constituted.

Commuters argued that the rising fares do not match ground realities. Overcrowded trains, slow progress on new lines and last-mile connectivity gaps have only added to the frustration. "It may not be cheap, but calling it a luxury service is a joke when trains are packed beyond capacity during peak hours," said Venkatesh, another regular passenger.

Mobility expert Satya Arikutharm termed the proposed hike "a travesty of justice", alleging that commuters are already paying nearly 32% more due to what he described as a flawed interpretation of the fare formula. "The meek acceptance of unfair fares seems to be encouraging BMRCL to impose yet another hike. Elected representatives must stand with citizens and hold the Metro accountable," he said.

With no comparable improvement in service quality, many fear that repeated fare hikes could push commuters back onto congested roads. As Venkatesh put it bluntly, "It's either pay more for the Metro or lose hours stuck in traffic. Either way, citizens are paying the price."

Kalena Agrahara Lake back to life, thanks to FinMin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Kalena Agrahara Lake off Bannerghatta Road was once an illegal dump yard with continuous inflow of raw sewage and marred by multiple issues. But thanks to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the water body is now brimming with life.

The once majestic lake was dying a slow death, when rejuvenation work began in 2017. Sitharaman, who was elected Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, released Rs 75 lakh from her MPLADS to fund the lake's revival.

Sharing an update on the lake's restoration on her social media on Sunday, along with other developmental works taken up through her MPLADS funds in Karnataka, the minister said the Kalena Agrahara Lake's restoration has delivered significant environmental, social and urban resilience benefits.

The lake, spread across 7.3 acres, has a length of 278 metre (main bund). The MPLADS funds were utilised for the removal of sludge from the lake bed to enhance the impounding capacity, strengthening of the main bund and formation of the ring bund using desilted earth, including revetment and turfing.

"Ecologically, the rejuvenation improved water quality through sewage diversion and natural filtration, revived native aquatic and bird biodiversity, and strengthened groundwater recharge in surrounding neighbourhoods," Sitharaman said. From an urban sustainability perspective, she said the lake now acts as a flood buffer during heavy monsoon, reducing runoff pressure on city drains.

"Socially, the restored lake has emerged as a community green space, supporting recreation, walking and environmental awareness, while also moderating local microclimate and improving air quality," she said.

PILOT PROJECT

Namma Ward website will give all local info to residents

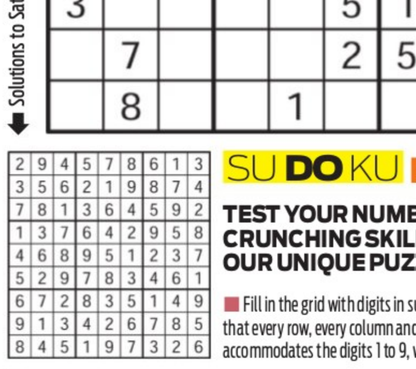
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO provide residents with all-round information and localised updates of their wards, a website -- Namma Ward (www.nammaward.in) -- was launched on Wednesday. The history of all wards, the issues they face and details of public representatives and in-charge government officials among others will be available on the website.

The Namma Ward initiative, by Paperless India Pvt Ltd in collaboration with Yuva Spandana and First Circle, has been launched as a pilot project from Ward Number 11 (Doddabommasandra), Bengaluru North City Corporation, and is intended to be scaled across all 369 wards of the city, with a mobile application and user-specific ward data planned in the next phase.

"Namma Ward initiative is a non-commercial, technology-enabled civic platform aimed at creating structured, ward-level information to strengthen citizen participation and local governance. The initiative is not associated with any individual or political party and is being implemented as a neutral, citizen-driven civic platform. Our intension is to create a structured, reliable and ward-specific digital information system, with civic participation as the core objective," said Advocate Prashanth Mirle, mentor and advisor to the organisations behind the initiative.

EXPRESS READ



City students win two titles at Indo-Nepal International Throwball Championship

Bengaluru: Eight students from St Francis Xavier Girls High School, seven from Presidency School and two from Mount Carmel College represented India and lifted the winners' trophies in two categories at the Indo-Nepal International Throwball Championship 2025–26, held from December 30 to January 1. The tournament was held in Kathmandu, where the students competed in the under-17 and under-19 categories. Both teams emerged champions in their respective events. The under-17 team defeated Thailand in the final, while the under-19 team beat Malaysia to clinch the title. **ENS**

Bootcamp held to equip educators with innovative pedagogy, entrepreneurship skills

Bengaluru: Presidency University hosted a three-day Innovation, Design & Entrepreneurship (IDE) bootcamp for principals and teachers of PM SHRI Schools from January 7 to 10 as part of a national initiative conducted across eight centres in six states. Abhay Jere, AICTE Vice Chairman and Chief Innovation Officer, Ministry of Education, interacted with participants. The bootcamp aimed to equip educators with design thinking, innovative pedagogy and entrepreneurship skills, supporting the goals of NEP 2020. The programme was inaugurated by B K Das, Director General of Electronics and Communication Systems at DRDO. **ENS**

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

12th January : Angelic Trine Maybe the angels are around us at all times, as they live in a rather timeless and spaceless dimension. If you knew you could get help from anyone who has ever walked this earth, who would you choose and what would you ask for? To ponder the question under this mystical Scorpio moon trine to lucky Jupiter will bring spiritual resources to hand.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
No need to stare into the mist and wait for answers to materialize because you already see the future you want, and it's crystal clear. Making it real will involve many steps, and the first one can start anywhere. Pick a step, any step, and then watch what happens next.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
You're so good at planning right now, why stop at designing your own experience? Other people would gladly pay you for a winning plan. Your true genius is in tailoring the blueprint to the resources available.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Instead of counting the number of tasks on your list today, count the number on someone else's list. Thinking about the duties or the leisure of others will give you the perspective that helps you nestle into your own groove, glad that it's yours.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Someone who gave you a treasure may now want it back. As always, you're inclined to do what is fair, not what is easy. And anyway, the best things cannot be returned even if you wanted to: time, love and the truth.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
People say there are no bad questions. Still, some questions move you forward faster than others. You'll skip the fluff and flattery and zero in on the precise details at the heart of the matter. This frees up progress.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You have been known to overcome physical discomfort by framing it as the price of fitness, fashion or responsibility. Similarly, you will endure a degree of injury to the ego in the name of love, harmony and emotional maturity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Your habits may feel a bit boring to you today, only because familiarity has dulled your emotional response. Spending time with someone who has a completely different style will stir the energy, and you'll do the same for them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
You're not meant to stick with everything you try. It's so relatable to outgrow interests, clothes and even relationships. But now it's time to focus on what you keep carrying forward year after year -- the gold of your character that everyone else sees, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Be wary of grandiosity. When the pendulum swings the other way, grandiosity turns into something else -- usually absence -- as a person realizes there's no way they can make good on delusion-based promises.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You're brimming with creative potential today, and there are multiple ways to apply it. Decide what most needs your clever fix, your beautiful twist or your inventive hand. Then get to work, and in two hours things are already different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You're like a reporter for a highly reputable publication that thoroughly checks the facts. Every bit of information that comes your way warrants further investigation. Reserve all conclusions for the final edit.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Somehow, it is socially acceptable to feel sorry for others, why not yourself? Microdoses of self-directed pity and sympathy just acknowledge the injustice of an experience and give you a foundation to push off from.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

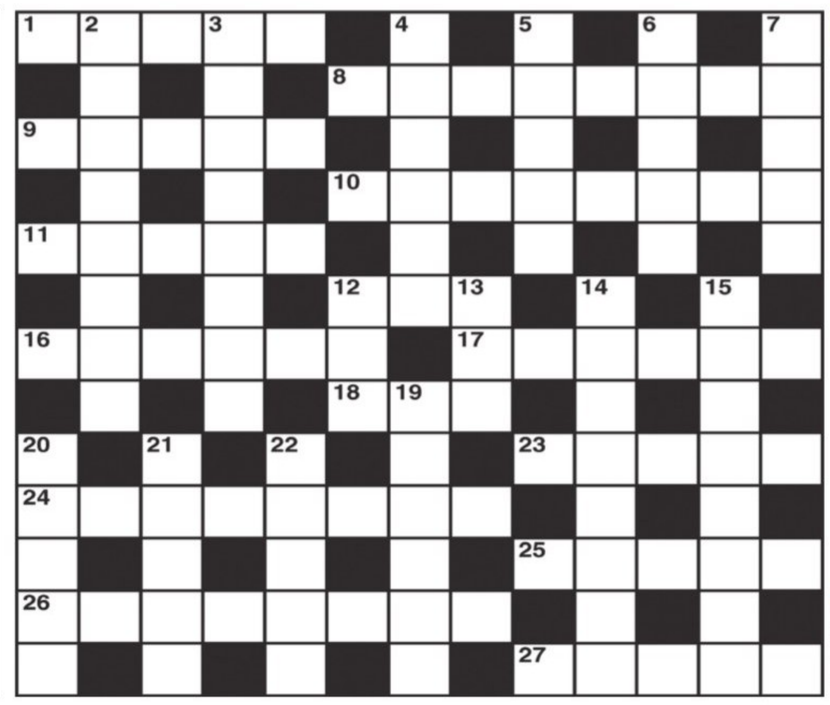
				4			7	
8		9	2				1	
		3	6					9
4	3		5					
	6	7				2	5	
					7		6	8
3					5	1		
	7				2	5		4
	8			1				

2	9	4	5	7	8	6	1	3
3	5	6	2	1	9	8	7	4
7	8	1	3	6	4	5	9	2
1	3	7	6	4	2	9	5	8
4	6	8	9	5	1	2	3	7
5	2	9	7	8	3	4	6	1
6	7	2	8	3	5	1	4	9
9	1	3	4	2	6	7	8	5
8	4	5	1	9	7	3	2	6

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Fall out of love and languish (5)
8 Dreadfully poor rate for machinist (8)
9 New star around the East grows radiantly (5)
10 Sue acted badly but improves (8)
11 School procession (5)
12 The age in which Chaucer achieved fame (3)
16 Animal that can't fly with odd one that can (6)
17 Cease to be a consumer (6)
18 An inclination to be a pickpocket (3)
23 Love to have a party again (5)
24 Engaging suggestion? (8)
25 Approach a junction - there's a long tailback (5)
26 They may be said to be highly complimentary (8)
27 African animal that goes round in bands (5)

DOWN
2 Check the breakwater (8)
3 Prejudiced? Oddly, indeed so (3-5)
4 It makes a fine trap (6)
5 Standing order from Crete (5)
6 A test devised for the government (5)
7 Fresh scrip issue (5)
12 Stop a goal (3)
13 As quiet as a glider (3)
14 Generous applause goes to a few (8)
15 Accidentally catch something perhaps (8)
19 I spoil the games figuratively speaking (6)
20 Some people investigating enemy secrets initially (5)
21 Desserts for kids (5)
22 Tail to disappear out of sight (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Silhouette, 6 Tent, 10 Cacti, 11 Haphazard, 12 Parlance, 13 Ditty, 15 Reissue, 17 Shouted, 19 Speed up, 21 Chemist, 22 Power, 24 Eligible, 27 Animation, 28 Llama, 29 Echo, 30 Grenadiers.

Down: 1 Sack, 2 Lucrative, 3 Oriel, 4 Enhance, 5 Topless, 7 Exact, 8 Today's date, 9 Hard core, 14 Brass plate, 16 Sidereal, 18 Trial game, 20 Premier, 21 Chignon, 23 Weigh, 25 Idled, 26 Gaps.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

FSUHL

CNIEM

BWLOEB

ADNIDC

Today's Guest JUMBLER is
JONATHAN LEMON
artist for ALLEY OOP
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook
11-17
WHEN THE CAVEMAN, ALLEY OOP, GETS HUNGRY, HE MAKES HIMSELF A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ACUTE PLANK BANISH SCRIPT
Answer: He threw four interceptions but didn't — PASS THE BUCK

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JANUARY 12, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

PRASHANT TAMANG (4 JANUARY 1983 – 11 JANUARY 2026)

PAATAL LOK 2 ACTOR PRASHANT TAMANG DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST

Prashant Tamang, winner of *Indian Idol 3* and acclaimed for his role as an assassin in *Paatal Lok 2*, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday morning

SHOT TO FAME AFTER WINNING INDIAN IDOL 3

Tamang, 43, passed away around 9 am at his Delhi residence, his close friend and singer Mahesh Sewa said. Tamang was born on January 4, 1983. Encouraged by friends, he auditioned for the reality singing show *Indian Idol* in 2007 and went on to win it. He then came out with his first album *Dhanyavaad* in 2010 and began performing at concerts worldwide

DEATH PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON HEART HEALTH

- Tamang's sudden death comes amid a rising number of young people succumbing to cardiac arrest and heart-related ailments
- *Bigg Boss 13* winner and actor Sidharth Shukla, Kannada actor Puneet Rajkumar, and filmmaker Raj Kaushal are among several young celebrities who have died from cardiac arrest

2010

WHEN TAMANG'S FIRST FILM *GORKHA PALTAN* WAS RELEASED

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

ICL
Join ICL, Grow with us
ICL Fincorp
GOLD LOAN @ 75* PAISE
*As Per EMI Scheme Basis *T&C Apply
MONTHLY INTEREST RATE PER ₹ 100
LOW INTEREST RATE
HIGH VALUE | EASY PROCESSING
TOLL-FREE : 1800 31 333 53

Big push to strategic ties as Modi, Merz set for talks in Ahmedabad

German Chancellor's visit to India first in Asia after taking office last year; to visit B'luru too

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

SIGNALLING New Delhi's intent to deepen partnerships with key European powers amid shifting global geopolitics and growing economic uncertainty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold comprehensive talks with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Merz's January 12-13 visit, his first to Asia since taking office eight months ago, comes in a backdrop of global challenges including Washington's 50 percent tariff on Indian goods, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, and a fractious global politico-economic order.

The talks are expected to focus on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, critical technologies, defence, and skill development.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in the European Union, with bilateral trade reaching around $50 billion in 2024-25. Germany accounts for roughly one-fourth of India's EU trade and is the ninth-largest foreign direct investor with cumulative investments exceeding $15 billion. Over 2,000 German companies operate in India.

The two leaders will review the India-Germany Strategic Partnership, which completed 25 years last year, and discuss ways to enhance cooperation in education, skilling and mobility, science and innovation research.

Chancellor Merz's Ahmedabad programme includes visiting Sabarmati Ashram, participating in the International Kite Festival, attending a skill development event, and talks with PM Modi at Mahatma Mandir. He will travel to Bengaluru on Tuesday to visit Bosch and Centre for Nano Science and Engineering.

Days after Merz's trip, EU leaders will visit New Delhi, where they may wrap up India-EU free trade agreement, to be followed by French President Emmanuel Macron's visit.

NAVAL OFFICER POSTING

Germany has agreed to deploy a Naval Liaison Officer at the IFC-IOR, a key information-sharing hub for maritime security in the region | **P7**

PM Narendra Modi addresses a gathering at Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference | PTI

PM: INDIA ON FAST TRACK TO BE 3RD LARGEST ECONOMY

Bullish on growth

In a message to investors, Modi said amid global uncertainty India offers predictability, political stability and rising middle-class purchasing power

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Rajkot

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday declared that India is rapidly advancing towards becoming the world's third largest economy, citing controlled inflation, macro stability and global confidence as key drivers amid worldwide uncertainty.

"Inflation is under control, macro stability is strong, and India today stands out with unprecedented certainty," Modi said at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Rajkot, contrasting India's political stability with turmoil in neighbouring countries.

Highlighting India's economic trajectory, he said, "India is the world's fastest growing economy. Global hopes are rising." Modi listed milestones including India being the world's largest milk producer, number one in generic medicines and vaccines, biggest mobile data consumer, top digital payment platform through UPI, second largest mobile manufacturer, and among top three in solar power and aviation markets.

"This is why global institutions are bullish on India," he said. "The IMF calls India the engine of global growth. S&P has upgraded India after 18 years. Fitch praises our macro stability and fiscal credibility."

Modi stressed that amid global uncertainty, India offers predictability, political stability and rising middle-class purchasing power.

SABARIMALA GOLD THEFT

Hand over case to a neutral probe agency, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the Sabarimala gold theft case must be investigated by a neutral agency to bring out the whole truth, alleging that the CPM-led government in Kerala is trying to protect the real culprits.

Shah said the case cannot be treated as a local issue as it is closely watched by people across the country, adding that the BJP will organise protests in Kerala until a neutral agency is assigned to conduct a probe into the matter.

"I demand that the Chief Minister hand over the probe to a neutral investigation agency. The BJP will carry out protests and door-to-door awareness campaigns," Shah said while addressing the newly elected local body members of the party in Thiruvananthapuram.

"The controversy is not just an issue of the state, but is closely being observed by people throughout the country. Can people under whom the assets of Sabarimala are unsafe protect our faith?" he said.

Shah expressed doubts about an investigation conducted by state police being impartial, saying that people associated with the ruling CPI(M) are under suspicion.

He further alleged that even the Congress could not be absolved, claiming that evidence had emerged of the involvement of its leaders.

Shah said he had seen the FIR in the case and alleged that the manner in which it was drafted made it clear that it was aimed at protecting the accused.

His comments came two days after Sabarimala Thantri Kandararu Rajeevaru was arrested by the Special Investigation Team constituted by the Kerala High Court in connection with the case.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is also looking into the financial trail in the case. The ED has registered an Enforcement Case Information Report under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah greets newly elected local body members, in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday | B P DEEPU

'BJP CM in Kerala'

Amit Shah told party workers that the local body election victory was not the final goal and that they must work further to achieve the objective of having a BJP Chief Minister in Kerala

Not fire, city PU student killed techie

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

AN open window, an unknown cause of a fire, and a missing mobile phone of a woman software engineer, who was initially suspected to have died of asphyxiation in a fire accident at her apartment, led the police to crack the rape and murder case.

An 18-year-old second PU student, who was living next door, has been arrested for strangling the woman to death after allegedly raping her. He tried to destroy evidence and also portray the murder as a death in a fire accident.

The accused, **Karnal Kurai** from Kodagu, is a second PU student at a private college. He was a neighbour of the 34-year-old techie who was from Dakshina Kannada and stayed in Subramanya Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar.

The police said that on January 3 night, the Fire and Emergency Services and the police received a call around 10.45 pm about a fire on the third floor of the apartment. Police and fire personnel rushed to the spot, doused the fire, and recovered the woman's body. Initially, it was suspected that she had died due to asphyxiation. **P5**

EXPRESS READ

Metro fares set to go up 5% in Feb

Bengaluru: Namma Metro is all set for the annual fare increase from February, as per the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) recommendation of up to five per cent hike in ticket charges every year | **P2**

Rahul Mamkootathil arrested in rape case

Pathanamthitta: Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil was remanded to 14 days' judicial custody on Sunday after a dramatic midnight arrest in connection with a fresh rape complaint | **P7**

Govt to ask manufacturers to pre-install Prasar Bharati's OTT app on new TVs

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

INTERNATIONAL REACH

Waves has a robust international presence with users in 181 countries, according to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. While India remains the leading market with over 4.2 million users, significant traction has been recorded in the USA, UK, UAE, Australia and France

BUOYED by the growing popularity of WAVES, Prasar Bharati's over-the-top (OTT) application, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is set to write to television manufacturers, urging them to pre-install the app on smart TVs. Currently, most smart TVs come pre-loaded with major OTT apps such as Netflix, YouTube, and Amazon Prime Video.

It comes weeks after the Ministry of Communications mandated the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on all smartphones, but later withdrew the order following pushback from phone makers.

WAVES was launched in November 2024. It combines live TV, on-demand videos, radio, games, e-books, and e-commerce in a single platform. It has already made strong inroads, recording over 3.8 million downloads and 2.3 million registered users in less than a year. WAVES currently offers at least 65 channels, including 40 live services featuring news and entertainment networks, movies, TV shows, and games in ten languages, including Hindi, English, Marathi, Tamil, and Assamese.

The content includes classics from the Doordarshan and Akashvani archives, along with new programming available on the application. Prasar Bharati also recently invited licensed linear satellite TV channels to join its OTT under a revenue-sharing commercial framework.

With the objective of bringing quality content to WAVES, the public broadcaster introduced a Pay-Per-View Content Sourcing Policy in October.

City sees 14 traffic violations every minute

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

BENGALUREANS committed an average of 14 traffic violations every minute, with nearly 21,000 violations reported in the city every day. The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) booked a whopping 69,88,400 traffic violations till November 2025, including 31,61,183 cases of riding without helmets.

According to BTP data, 87% of the 69,88,400 violations were detected through contactless enforcement using artificial intelligence (AI) cameras, while the remaining were booked by traffic police personnel on the ground. The data further shows that the police registered 20,33,259 cases of riders without helmets and 11,27,924 cases of pillion riders not wearing helmets. In addition, 11,16,278 cases of wrong parking were also recorded.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

Violations	cases
No DL	21,612
Overspeeding	40,439
Triple riding	1,10,917
Defective silencer	5,080
Jumping signal	6,62,447
Drunk driving	38,919
Using phone	53,476
Without safety belt	7,59,183

*Up to November, 2025

A deputy commissioner of police (DCP) rank officer said that following traffic rules helps prevent accidents and ensures a smooth flow of traffic. But many road users are not committed to adhering to the rules. The officer noted that traffic discipline should start within families and added that it is unacceptable that Bengalureans lack awareness about road safety.

The officer said that when the majority of road users follow traffic rules, violations can be controlled through fines. However, he observed that many commuters tend to "take a chance" and violate rules. While the numbers are increasing now, stricter enforcement could lead to a reduction in the coming years, he said.

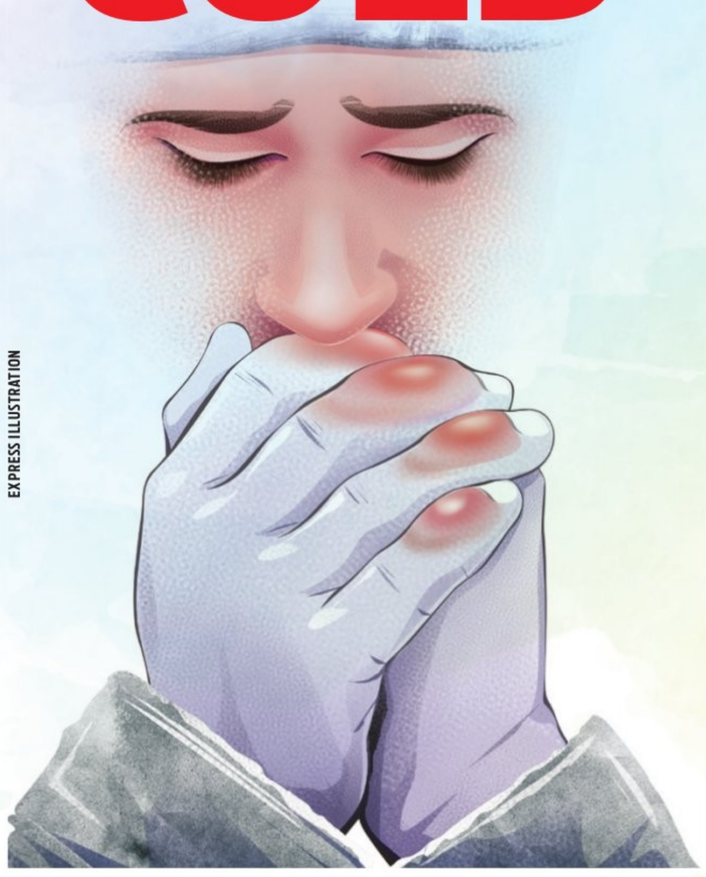
Another senior officer said that despite awareness campaigns conducted by the police and various organisations, road users continue to neglect traffic rules and repeatedly commit offences.

He stressed that wearing helmets and seatbelts, avoiding overspeeding and not jumping traffic signals help prevent accidents, while violations such as poor lane discipline, riding against one-way traffic and parking in no-parking zones severely affect traffic flow. He added that many road users do not fear AI cameras and continue to repeat violations even after paying fines when caught by the police.

State Congress media and communication wing chairman Ramesh Babu on Sunday urged Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy to get the Centre's approval for various projects in the state, including the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project, second airport in Bengaluru, defence corridors and defence and aerospace parks. Babu said many important works, including irrigation projects, are delayed due to lack of cooperation from the Centre

K'TAKA HAS A COLD

Hospitals across the state are reporting a surge in cases of common cold, flu-like symptoms and worsening of existing respiratory conditions with a sudden dip in mercury, testing the resilience of the healthcare system. Health experts suggest vaccination, early medical attention and preventive measures such as masking in crowded spaces and maintaining hygiene as cold comforts



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

AS cold winter weather wrapped Karnataka after many years, the season also came with an unexpected test of residents' immunity, as hospitals across the state reported a rise in seasonal illnesses. Doctors noted a steady increase in patients presenting with colds, flu-like symptoms, and worsening of existing respiratory conditions due to the sudden dip in weather.

Most common are respiratory illnesses, where hospitals have reported a noticeable increase in footfall in late November, December and January. Pulmonologist at Victoria Hospital, Dr TJ Basavaraju says numbers in outpatient department (OPD) have risen nearly 30-40% compared to the previous year, largely driven by respiratory complaints.

"Earlier, we used to see around 100–120 patients daily. This winter, that number has gone up to 150. Most patients present with bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or interstitial lung disease (ILD), and some elderly patients even have fever and shortness of breath due to viral infections," he says.

While healthy adults manage well, patients with chronic lung diseases experience acute worsening of symptoms. "Viral infections like rhinovirus and seasonal influenza strains such as H1N1 and H3N2 are the main triggers. Vaccination makes a noticeable difference. Those who are immunised have milder illness and recover faster," says Dr Pavan Yadav MV, Clinical Director & Senior Consultant – Interventional Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine, KIMS Hospitals. "Compared to last year, the severity in healthy adults has not changed significantly, but patients with existing lung conditions experience more complications during this winter," he adds.

While most patients are affected by upper respiratory infections, lower respiratory illnesses are also reported, particularly among those with pre-existing conditions. Doctors highlight that post-viral coughs persist for 7-10 days in some cases, even after the fever subsides. Environmental factors play a major role, with doctors pointing out that colder temperatures combined with air pollution create smog, which escalates respiratory problems. Travel and gatherings during the holiday season further contribute to the spread of infections, particularly among the elderly and those with comorbidities.

Doctors highlighted that patients with chronic heart, kidney, or liver conditions were at higher risk during this period. "For vulnerable adults, flu and pneumonia vaccinations are essential. Additionally, maintaining hygiene, using masks in crowded spaces, and avoiding early morning or late evening exposure to cold can reduce the risk of severe illness," advised Dr George Albert D'Souza, Dean, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, St John's Medical College Hospital.

Children, too, have become vulnerable as paediatric departments flagged a noticeable rise in infections during the latter half of 2025. Dr Sahana Devadas, Head of the Department of Paediatrics, Vani Vilas Children's Hospital, said seasonal flu and pneumonia dominated paediatric admissions, with cases starting to rise as early as August and September and peaking towards the year-end. "Flu was quite high, and pneumonias were definitely more this season," she said.

Children below five, particularly infants and toddlers, are affected the most. Dr Devadas said that while many infections were moderate, around 10–15% of cases turned severe, requiring intensive care, ventilatory support, and prolonged hospitalisation. Infants under two years of age are especially vulnerable, with respiratory infections such as RSV and influenza accounting for a large proportion of admissions.

BIG PICTURE

RSV and influenza infections are found more prominently this year compared to previous seasons, and doctors claim that increased testing has also helped in identifying these viruses more frequently. "This time, we saw a lot more RSV and influenza cases," she said, attributing the rise partly to seasonal factors and fluctuating weather conditions.

Severe outcomes were largely seen among children with underlying health conditions. According to Dr Devadas, infants with congenital heart diseases, malnutrition, and those who were not breastfed were more susceptible to complications from pneumonia and viral infections. "Children with comorbidities tend to present late and are more likely to deteriorate," she said, adding that fatalities, when they occurred, were mostly among children with pre-existing conditions.

While seasonal respiratory infections among children are not unusual, the scale and persistence of cases this winter placed added pressure on paediatric wards and intensive care units, underscoring the need for early detection, timely treatment and preventive care, particularly for high-risk children.

Doctors also reported a shift in the pattern of infections seen this winter, with multiple seasonal viruses circulating simultaneously. According to Dr Basavaraj S Kumbar, Consultant – Internal Medicine, Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru, hospitals have been seeing a rise in cases of influenza A and B, H1N1, H3N2, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID-19, and swine flu since late November. "These are all seasonal infections, but what stood out this winter was the number of viruses being seen at the same time," he said.

Since RSV is commonly seen among children, especially those attending school or daycare, infections often spread to parents and elderly family members at home. Among individuals aged 15–45 years, influenza infections were frequent, while pregnant women were identified as a particularly vulnerable group due to lowered immunity. Elderly patients above 60 years are more prone to complications such as pneumonia, often requiring hospitalisation. Doctors said these patients usually presented with fever, breathlessness, and chest infections, requiring close monitoring and, in some cases, hospital admission.

Dermatological conditions such as dry skin, psoriasis, and scabies are also on the rise during winter. Dr Kumbar noted that these cases are increasingly seen, particularly among immunocompromised and bedridden patients, and are most prominent among prisoners due to poor sanitation and overcrowding. "Scabies is a parasitic skin infection, and we are seeing it more frequently this season, especially in patients undergoing cancer treatment, those on dialysis, post-transplant patients, and individuals with uncontrolled diabetes," he said. In some instances, the infection can spread rapidly within households, sometimes requiring treatment for all family members. With the weather cited as one of the major contributing factors, doctors explained that cold and dry conditions lead to skin dryness, weakening the skin's protective barrier and increasing the risk of secondary infections.

With winter continuing and colder winters expected in the future, doctors said the seasonal surge in illnesses serves as a reminder of how vulnerable certain populations remain during sudden changes in weather. Health experts emphasised that seasonal viruses are likely to continue circulating through the colder months and stressed the importance of vaccination, early medical attention and preventive measures such as masking in crowded spaces and maintaining hygiene.

They added that timely care and awareness, particularly among high-risk groups like children, the elderly, and those with chronic conditions, can help reduce complications.

WINTER HEALTH

DOS

- Get vaccinated for seasonal flu and pneumonia, especially if elderly
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle with regular exercise and balanced nutrition
- Get adequate sleep and allow proper rest
- Keep yourself warm, especially during early mornings and late evenings
- Manage chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart or kidney disease properly
- Practice hand hygiene and wear masks in crowded places
- Seek early medical care if symptoms persist or worsen

DON'TS

- Avoid excessive exhaustion and overexertion
- Avoid long travel and crowded gatherings during peak cold spells
- Do not ignore a persistent cough, fever, or breathlessness
- Avoid smoking and alcohol, especially during illness
- Do not expose yourself to cold air unnecessarily, particularly early mornings
- Avoid self-medication

KODAGU

No increase in illnesses

Kodagu is seeing a few cases of common cold with the onset of chilly weather, but there has been no increase in respiratory illnesses, and no influenza cases have been reported, said Kodagu District Health Officer Dr Satish Kumar. Some private hospitals have, however, reported occasional cases of respiratory congestion and fever, particularly among the elderly, since December.

BALLARI

Kids, elderly vulnerable

Ballari district reported a rise in seasonal health issues following a sudden 9 degrees Celsius temperature drop, recorded for the first time in the region. The cold wave led to more cases of common cold, fever, cough, sore throat, and other winter-related illnesses, with hospitals and primary health centres seeing higher outpatient visits, especially among children, the elderly, and those with low immunity. Doctors advise wearing warm clothing, avoiding sudden cold exposure, and maintaining hygiene, while health authorities urge seeking medical attention if symptoms persist instead of self-medicating. Experts note that abrupt weather changes have weakened immunity, contributing to an over 40% increase in seasonal health issues compared to previous years.

SHIVAMOGGA

Viral fever a worry

With changing weather, Shivamogga city is reporting cases of viral fever, which are common during winter, but no serious respiratory illnesses or viral flu have been reported, said District Surgeon Dr Siddana Gowda Patil. Consultant pulmonologist Dr Abhishek Nuchin added that while cases have risen slightly after December 15, there is no spike, and symptoms like cough, cold, throat irritation, fever, and fatigue are being treated symptomatically. These mild cases usually last about three days and are linked to seasonal weather changes. As a precaution, annual flu vaccines are administered to patients with respiratory illnesses to reduce the severity of fever, cough, and cold.

BELAGAVI

Crowded OPDs

Doctors from several private hospitals in Belagavi said their outpatient departments are witnessing an increase in patients, especially those aged 60 years and above. Common complaints include chest congestion, prolonged cough, wheezing, sore throat, and sleep disturbances. According to them, fluctuating temperatures and cooler weather are contributing to respiratory and viral infections, particularly among elderly patients and those with existing health conditions.

UDUPI

Respiratory illnesses surge

Dr Vyasaraja Tantry A, Medical Director at Gandhi Hospital, Udupi, told TNIE that OPD attendance has surged recently, mainly due to infectious diseases, respiratory illnesses, and acute gastroenteritis, linked to the recent weather transition and colder conditions that increase infection susceptibility. He advised people to maintain personal and environmental hygiene, consume safe food and water, and seek timely medical attention.

Dr Shrilaxmi R, an Ayurvedic doctor from Parkala, Udupi, also noted a rise in seasonal illnesses caused by weather changes, pollution, and reduced immunity, particularly in cities. Both outpatient and inpatient visits are rising, especially among young children, seniors, and patients with chronic illnesses.

KALABURAGI

Steady rise in ILI cases

Kalaburagi has seen a steady rise in influenza-like illness (ILI) cases over the past three years, according to District Health Officer Dr Sharanabasappa Kyatnal. In 2023, 1,336 cases were reported, rising to 2,669 in 2024, and 3,227 in 2025. The highest numbers in 2025 were recorded in June (436 cases), followed by December (364) and July (344). Patients are commonly experiencing cold, cough, and throat pain.

GADAG

Surge in seasonal flu

The Gadag District Hospital is witnessing a surge in seasonal flu, colds, respiratory issues, and coughs, with queues forming at government and private hospitals over the past few days. Health officials are providing necessary medicines, and while cases of influenza and other respiratory illnesses have been reported, no admissions have been recorded, according to Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences. Doctors say these are typical seasonal flu cases, similar to last year. A health department official noted that with dropping temperatures, precautions have been advised, but there is no cause for concern as cases remain within the normal range, and medicines are available at district, taluk hospitals, and PHCs.

VIJAYAPURA

Rise in minor OPD cases

The drop in temperatures in the district has led to a rise in respiratory illnesses, cough, cold, and viral and bacterial infections, with a 15% increase in cases over the past month, according to health officials. Senior physician Dr Sarfaraz Shaikh said winter conditions, accompanied by fog and dust, are causing throat and respiratory infections. He added that while OPD visits have increased, there has also been a rise in minor invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) cases, requiring two- to three-day admissions.

DHARWAD

Patient density lower

Dharwad district is witnessing seasonal flu, cold, cough and other routine infections, though patient density is lower compared to last year, which saw a few dengue cases. Private hospitals have reported only common flu, while health officers have remained vigilant. No severe health issues due to the cold have been reported, but patients with pre-existing conditions are receiving treatment.

With inputs from Prajina GR (Kodagu), Kiran Balannanavar (Ballari), Marx Teaswi (Shivamogga), Naushad Bijapur (Belgavi), Prakash Samaga (Udupi), Ramkrishna Badseshi (Kalburgi), Raghottam Koppar (Gadag), Mallikarjun Hiremath (Dharwad) and Firoz Rozindar (Vijayapura)

CASE STUDY:

TRACKING RARE INFECTIONS AMID SEASONAL ILLNESS

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THOUGH respiratory and viral illnesses dominate hospital visits this winter, some people have faced rare infections during this period. Sanjay (48), a chartered accountant in Bengaluru, came down with high-grade fever in the third week of December. He took paracetamol, and the fever disappeared. But the next day, the fever resurfaced after six hours. The pattern continued for three to four days until Sanjay and his wife decided to see their GP.

On examination, the doctor prescribed a course of antibiotics for five days along with paracetamol if the fever persisted. Despite the medication, Sanjay's fever kept resurfacing every six hours. He was then asked to undergo some blood tests to determine the prognosis.

"All my blood tests came negative. The doctor then prescribed a fresh battery of tests while asking me to continue with the paracetamol until the fever abated. It was by then a fortnight since I first had fever, and there were no signs of recovery. I had also lost 5 kg and felt weak. The second row of tests also came negative. On a relative's recommendation, we saw a specialist in a super-specialty hospital, who, after going through my medical records, asked me to do a Leptospira test to diagnose leptospirosis. It turned out to be positive," Sanjay told TNIE.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic infection spread from animals to humans through contact with contaminated water or soil, causing flu-like symptoms. If left untreated, it can potentially lead to severe complications like kidney failure or meningitis (Weil's disease).

While Sanjay is now on the road to recovery, drinking directly from a can may have been the source of the Leptospira bacterial infection. Cans pass through warehouses, trucks and store shelves and, in the process, can be exposed to rodent urine and other contaminants.

Dalits plan rally for CM's post, but Dr G says hold on

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

WITH the leadership tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar unlikely to die down till the intervention of LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, a section of Dalits is planning a rally to push for a CM from their community.

Several Dalit leaders are exerting pressure on Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, the prominent Dalit face in Karnataka, to give the go ahead for the rally in Old Mysuru Region. A group, led by Venkataramanaswamy, also known as Papu, from Chamarajanagar, met him in Tumakuru on Sunday and sought his dates for the event. However, Parameshwara advised them to wait for some more time.

Being a member of the Siddaramaiah camp, Parameshwara feels the former would continue as CM and that is the reason he is hesitating to back the Dalit rally, sources said. Parameshwara, a loyalist of the Nehru-Gandhi family and an aide of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, is not ready to go against them, they added. He met Kharge, but what transpired between them was not known even as he termed their meeting a courtesy call.

"Since Parameshwara is a staunch Congress loyalist, he should be made CM if Siddaramaiah has to step down," said DSS leader Mavalli Shankar, adding that a Dalit rally will be organised soon to give this demand a push. "The top post has been elusive for Dalits since Independence as many senior leaders missed the bus. It should not be the case this time," he said.

Meanwhile, AHINDA organisations have started preparations to hold rallies across the state, including in Mysuru and Hubballi, to back Siddaramaiah to continue in the top post. A rally has also been planned in central Karnataka, either in Haveri or Davanagere, sources said.

Have faith my party will decide my future: DKS

Amid the change in leadership tussle in the Congress government, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said he has faith in the party and it will decide his future as well. Shivakumar said more than outsiders, some people from his own community are criticising him out of jealousy. "They are stabbing me in the back. All this is natural in politics. One should not lose peace . We must remain honest," he said. Shivakumar also said when Union minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy was chief minister, he had worked honestly. "Yet, Kumaraswamy accused me of stabbing him in the back. I do not need anyone's certificate. It is enough if I satisfy my conscience," he said.

GOVT FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY, NO QUESTION OF TURMOIL: MUNIYAPPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kalaburagi

"When the administration in Karnataka is running smoothly, where is the question of turmoil in the government," asked Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa, here on Sunday. He said the Congress high command is observing everything and will take appropriate decisions at the appropriate time. He told reporters to question those who talk about a "turmoil" in the government.

On the clarification sought by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on the Internal Reservation Bill, Muniyappa said the Bill was passed unanimously in both Houses with the cooperation of all parties, but the governor sent it back for no reason. Appropriate answers and information will be provided to the governor, he added.

He said the Central government stated that 7.5 lakh BPL cards were given to ineligible families in Karnataka, but the state government will do a ground check and take a decision. In South India, most BPL cards are in Karnataka. Although Karnataka is a high-tax state, it is not clear why BPL cards are so high, he said, and added that it will be reviewed.

He said new ration cards will be issued in a couple of months. About 3 lakh applications are pending due to various reasons.

Instead of providing free rice, a nutritious Indira kit containing 5 kg of rice, tur dal, sugar, oil and salt will be distributed from next month. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will launch the scheme in late January or early February, he said.

The Ramamurthy Nagar police have arrested a woman for allegedly assaulting and abusing an elderly woman home guard at a BMTC bus stop in front of the KR Puram Railway Station on January 9. The incident occurred around 3 pm when the home guard, Lakshminarasamma was on duty. With a large crowd waiting for buses on the road, she told them not to obstruct vehicular movement. At this point the accused, Damini alias Mohini (31), abused the home guard, pulled her by the hair and assaulted her

WHITEFIELD KIDNAP-MURDER

Autopsy confirms sexual assault on 6-year-old girl

Parents' suspicion put cops on the suspect's trail, arrested while attempting to flee state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FURTHER investigation into the kidnapping and murder of a six-year-old migrant girl under the Whitefield police limits has revealed that the child was sexually assaulted by the accused before being murdered. Police sources said the post-mortem report confirmed the sexual assault before her death. The accused, Yusuf Meer, has been taken into police custody for 10 days for further interrogation.

The police said Meer came to the city six months ago and was working as a scrap collector. He and the victim's family were neighbours at Pattandur Agrahara. He had disputes with the victim's family members before the incident. On the morning of January 5, he allegedly kidnapped the girl while she was playing in front of her house, sexually assaulted her and later strangled her to death. He then packed the body in a gunny bag, transported it on his scrap-collecting bicycle, and dumped it into a drain near a temple in Nallurahalli before fleeing, the police said.

The police launched a search operation after victim's parents filed a complaint on January 6, and recovered the girl's body. The parents initially suspected Yusuf Meer, which helped the police trace and nab him while he was attempting to flee to West Bengal by train.

The preliminary investigation revealed that criminal cases were earlier registered against him in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The police have invoked the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences and are continuing the investigation.

Hubballi rape video leads to arrest of 3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hubballi

A GANGRAPE incident in Hubballi has come to light after the culprits uploaded a video of their act on social media. Upon seeing the video, the neighbours of the accused thrashed the accused and handed them over to the police who have registered a suo motu case.

Three persons have been arrested in this connection. They have been identified as Shivanand Kanan, Ganesh Giddannavar and Pradeep Doddamani, all building construction workers. Hubballi Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shashikumar said that, on Friday, two youths picked up the woman (aged around 35) from a ground near Indi Pump in an autorickshaw. They misbehaved with her, raped her, forced her to consume alcohol and abandoned her. They recorded all these acts on their mobile phones and uploaded them on social media platforms.

The accused Shivanand Kanan, Ganesh Giddannavar and Pradeep Doddamani

"When the police came across the video, a suo motu case was registered and a manhunt was launched to nab them. During the search, the woman was found near Siddaroodha Mutt and when asked about the incidents, she narrated her ordeal. The victim has been sent for medical examination," he added. Interestingly, one of the accused Shivanand registered a case against the people who thrashed him.

A source said that the woman is a native of Haveri and had come to Hubballi a month ago. As she has no permanent address in Hubballi, she shifted from one place to the other as per her convenience.

EXPRESS READ

2 killed as car rams barricade on NICE Rd

Bengaluru: Two people were killed and three others injured when the car they were travelling in overturned after ramming a roadside barricade on NICE Road near the Varahasandra junction, under the Thalaghattapura traffic police station limits, early Sunday. Both the deceased, Devaraj (32), the driver, and Ashok (23), hailed from Madhugiri in Tumakuru. The injured, Srinivas, Madan and Mahantesh, aged between 30 and 35, are said to be out of danger. The police said the accident occurred around 4.20 am when Devaraj was driving at high speed. He lost control of the vehicle when it jumped over road humps. He then crashed into the roadside barricade and the vehicle overturned.

FESTIVE SHOPPING

People throng the Gandhi Bazaar market to buy pooja items, sweets and other essentials ahead of the Makara Sankranti festival in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Rowdies, cops real and fake harass small biz: Bakers' body

ENS @Bengaluru

FRAUDSTERS impersonating Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials, assessment officers, Crime Branch personnel, GST officials and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) officers have been visiting commercial establishments across the state and threatening shop owners claimed DB Pratap Shetty, president of Karnataka State Bakeries, Condiments, and Small Entrepreneurs Association. Association members are now planning to approach Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Monday and request him to act against the alleged widespread harassment of small traders by these impostors.

He said there is also rising harassment by petty rowdies, worsening the situation. Instead of acting against these atrocities, the police are targeting these small businesses and seizing cigarettes, he claimed. The police have seized large quantities of cigarettes from shops and allegedly asked traders to visit police stations to collect their goods after paying fines ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.

The association demanded that the police immediately return the confiscated cigarettes, and warned a statewide bandh if no action is taken against the fake officials. Shetty suggested that the state government should consider a complete ban on the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and tobacco, to prevent selective enforcement or harassment of traders. He said that if no action is taken, a bigger protest will be held and Karnataka bandh will be observed.

Open window, missing phone and no fire source lead police to accused

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

However, the police, especially the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team, grew suspicious because of multiple factors. There was no clear source of fire, such as a short circuit or gas explosion.

The window of the room where the body was found was open, raising doubts about death due to asphyxiation. The body was not found in her bedroom but her flatmate's room and the flatmate was not in town when the incident occurred.

Moreover, the deceased's mobile phone was missing. The police were also puzzled how the accused entered the house, as it was locked from inside.

Set fire to destroy evidence

The police said that a friend of the deceased filed a complaint, expressing suspicion over her death, following which an investigation was taken up. Based on technical evidence and tracing the missing mobile phone of the deceased, the police picked up Kurai. During questioning, he revealed that he had entered the house around 9 pm through a sliding window with the intention of obtaining sexual favours. When the deceased refused to cooperate, he allegedly raped her. When she resisted, he forcibly covered her mouth and nose with his hands and she lost consciousness. She had also sustained bleeding injuries. Scared that he would be caught, Kurai tried to destroy evidence by setting fire to the victim's body and other stuff in the room. He took the victim's mobile phone and fled the scene. When the police traced the mobile phone, it led them to Kurai and he was arrested on Saturday (January 10). A preliminary probe established that he was trying to get close to the victim, but she had turned down his advances.

The police have registered a case under Sections 103 (murder), 64 (punishment for rape), 66 (punishment for causing death or vegetative state in aggravated sexual assault cases), and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the BNS.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the Undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients **JAYASHANTHAMMA.B.N, W/o Late.K.M.Srinivasa**, Aged about 51years R/at No.216, 6th Main, Narasipura Layout, Vidyaranayapura, Bengaluru-560097. has filed petition for death certificate of Deceased here in named as **MAHENDRA.S, S/O LATE.K.M.SRINIVAS, as he was died on 07/01/2023 at No.216, 8th Main, Narasipura Layout, Vidyaranayapura, Bengaluru-560097.** If any parties who have objections with regard to issue of death certificate can appear before the Hon'ble 13th A.C.J.M. Bengaluru **on 28/01/2026 at 11.00 A.M. in C.Misc. No. 9402/2025.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Shirastedar
Hon'ble 13th A.C.J.M. Bengaluru
PAVITHRA .R, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the Undersigned advocate on behalf of my client **Hanumantharaju.S S/o. Siddalingappa and another** has filed petition for death certificate of petitioners Son **Sharath Kumar. H S/o Hanumantharaju.S, was died on 29/03/2022** at Bettahalsuru Cross, Sonnappanahalli, Yalahanka, Bangalore. Son of petitiones, If any parties who have objections with regard to issue of death certificate can appear before the Hon'ble 1st Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli **on 18.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M. in C.Misc. No. 216/2023.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
GOPAL YADAV .R.S, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client **Mr. Srinivas and others** has field the above petition for the death certificate of **Akkayamma w/o Late Chikkamunishamappa who died on 27-11-2004** at Vishwanathapura Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore-562110, if any one has any objections in this regard can appear before the Honorable 2nd Additional Civil Judge and JMFC Court at Devanahalli on the date of hearing of the case **on 20-02-2026 at 11:am in the above case.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Manoj Gowda .P, Advocate

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Consentors(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	47040430000692 & 47049170025410	1) Mr. Venkatesha, 2) Mrs. Lakshmi	**16.10.2025, Rs.3,63,425.49** (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five And Forty Nine Paisa Only) **due as on 07-10-2025**	**Date: 07.01.2026 Time: 11:30 AM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the Khaneshkumari No.14/04, property No.04, Sl.No.04, Measuring East to West 4.5731 and North to South 13.10975 situated at Borecolony Village, Ellegehalli Dhakle, Uyyumballi Grama Panchayath, Uyumballi Hobali, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Ellegahalli Dhakle, [Khaneshmari No.04/04] and **Bounded on: On the East:** Remaining Own Property, **On the West:** House belongs to Shivalingaiah, **On the South:** House belongs to Srinivas, **On the North:** Road.			
2	45359630001320 & 45359410001132	1) Mrs. Sannamma, 2) Mr. Doddaveeregowda	**27.10.2025, Rs.4,99,018.75** (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eighteen and Seventy Five Paisa Only) **due as on 21-10-2025**	**Date: 07.01.2025 Time: 11:55 AM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel for Property No.152900201500200271, 292/533/132/8, measuring East to West 25.91 meters and North to South 11.28 meters, situated at Nayakanahalli Village, Dodda Alahalli Gram Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Government Road, **West by:** House belongs to Susheelamma, W/o. Shivanna, **North by:** House belongs to Susheelamma, **South by:** House belongs to Rathnamma.			
3	47040430000420	1) Mr.Siddachari B C, 2) Mrs Chikkamma	**24.09.2025, Rs.4,87,679.46** (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Nine And Forty Six Paisa Only) **due as on 21-09-2025**	**Date: 07.01.2026 Time: 12:15 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of for property No.152900200500600891 Khaneshwari No.184/3 measuring East to West 6.402 meters and North to South 12.804 meters, situated at Bhoohalli Village, Kadahalli Grama Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Lakshmana, **West by:** House belongs to Rathnamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House belongs to Ramakrishnegowda.			
4	47050430000333 & 47059410000901	1) Mr. Venkatachalaiah, 2) Mrs. Maramma	**23.10.2025, Rs.6,18,089.78** (Rupees Six Lakh Eighteen Thousand Eighty Nine and Seventy Eight Paisa Only) **due as on 21-10-2025**	**Date: 07.01.2026 Time: 01:40 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the Property No.1, Sl.No.1, measuring East to West 10.6707 meters and North to South 13.7195 meters, situated at Koothagondanahalli, Village, Iruligara Colony Village, Somadyamappanahalli Gram Panchayath, Kasaba Hobali, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** House belongs to Narayana, **North by:** House belongs to Govinda, **South by:** Road.			
5	47049630000490 & 47049410000431	1) Mr. Sundralingegowda, 2) Mrs. Latha	**18.10.2025, Rs.8,98,988.13** (Rupees Eight Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Eight and Thirteen Paisa Only) **due as on 18-10-2025**	**Date: 07.01.2025 Time: 02:20 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel the for Property. E Khatha No.152900203000900458, Khaneshumari No.52/52, measuring East to West 16.45 meters and North to South 16.45 meters, situated at Belikottanuru Village, Somadyamappanahalli Gram Panchayath. Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District, All improvement there on **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Kempegowda, **West by:** House belongs to Shivanna, **North by:** Remaining Land, **South by:** Road.			
6	47050440000132 & 47059410001064	1) Mr. Ramaradhya M J, 2) Mrs. Sowmya	**16.10.2025, Rs.7,03,744.61** (Rupees Seven Lakh Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Four and Sixty One Paisa Only) **due as on 12-10-2025**	**Date: 07.01.2026 Time: 02:50 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the for Property Khaneshumari No. 495/521, measuring East to West 30.4799 meters and North to South 21.3359 meters, Situated at Chikkamudawadi Village, Chikkamudawadi Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Remaining Own Property, **West by:** Ramanagara Kanakapura Main Road, **North by:** Own Vacant Property and 8 Feet Road, **South by:** Remaining Own Property.			
7	45359630000968 & 45359410000681	1) Mr. Shivakumara, 2) Mrs. Padmamma	**23.10.2025, Rs.8,42,381.38** (Rupees Eight Lakh Forty Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One And Thirty Eight Paisa Only) **due as on 20-10-2025**	**Date: 07.01.2026 Time: 01:00 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel the for property 92, S1.No.108, Khaneshumari No.108/92, measuring East to West 8.9276 meter (34 feet) and North to South 26.2577 meters (100 feet), situated at Honnahalli Village, Choodahalli Gram Panchayath, Satanuru Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Land belongs to Channegowda, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Pathway Road, **South by:** Land belongs to Umesh.			

Whereas, the Borrowers/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby is given to the Borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural | **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 12.01.2026 | **For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

IN THE COURT OF XXIX ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
P & S.C. No. 4/2026 (CCH-30)

BETWEEN: 1. Ms. GAYATHRI RAO @ GAYATHRI. S. SWAROOP, D/o Sri. H. Mohan Rao, aged about 37 years, R/o No.5-6-510, Kodialbail, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore, Karnataka- 575 003, **2. Ms. H. SWATHI RAO,** D/o Sri. H. Mohan Rao, aged about 29 years, R/o No.5-6-518, Vasudeva Rao Compound, Near Guthyama Stana, Kodialbail, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore, Karnataka- 575 003, **3. Mr. SHREYAS BADANIDYOOR @ B.SHREYAS,** S/o Sri. B. Harish, aged about 29 years, R/o No. F2-3082, 'Sobha Ruby, Tumkur Road, Opp. Nagasandra Metro, Nagasandra, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560 073, **4. Ms. BADANIDYOOR VYSHALI @ B. VYSHALI,** D/o Sri. B. Harish, aged about 32 years, R/o No. F2-3082, 'Sobha Ruby', Tumkur Road, Opp. Nagasandra Metro, Nagasandra, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560073 **...PETITIONERS**

[Petitioner Nos.1 to 3 are represented by their Power Of Attorney holder: **Ms. Badanidyoor Vyshali @ B. Vyshali** D/o Sri.B.Harish, the Petitioner No.4 herein, duly appointed vide Power of Attorney dated 24.11.2025]

AND: -NIL- ...RESPONDENT/S

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the above named have made a petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Certificate of Probate in favour of the Petitioner No.4 with respect to the Schedule Properties mentioned hereunder. The below mentioned Schedule properties were held by Late **Dr. Badanidyoor Sridhara Rao @ B.Sridhara Rao** who passed away on 18.10.2021 at Bengaluru, leaving behind a registered Will dated 09.12.2020 duly registered before the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Peenya, Bengaluru, as Document No. PNY-3-00103-2020-21, stored in C.D. No. PNYD1187

All interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through a pleader duly instructed on **21/02/2026** at **11:00 A.M.** to show cause against the petitioners herein, failing which the appearance will be heard and declared as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Plot land measuring approximately 5000 Sq.feet with an independent bunglow having a built-up area of approximately 1500 Sq.feet situated at "Venkata Prasada", Plot No. 869, New No.11, 17th Main Road, Anna Nagar, West, Chennai-600040 and bounded on the: **East by:** Plot No.868, **West by:** Plot No.870, **North by:** Plot Nos.882 and 883, **South by:** 48' 0" Road

Measurements on the: **North by:** 50 feet, **South by:** 50 feet, **East by:** 100 feet, **West by:** 100 feet

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Plot land measuring approximately 1200 Sq.feet, bearing Plot No.37 of "SERENE MEADOWS" (approved by Kaverirajapuram Village Panchayath in resolution No.55 dated 16.09.2013) comprised in Patta No.1729 in Sy.No.62/6, Kaverirajapuram Village, Thiruttani Taluk, Thiruvallore District. Thiruvalangadu Sub-registration District, Kanchipuram Registration, Tamil Nadu and bounded on the: **East by:** 20 feet layout road, **West by:** Plot No.42, **North by:** Plot No.36, **South by:** Plot No.38

Measurements on the: **North by:** 30 feet, **South by:** 30 feet, **East by:** 40 feet, **West by:** 40 feet

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, on this 07/01/2026

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Sri. Anirudh. K.H, Advocate
Chambers at: #162, Ground floor, 1st main, 1st Cross, Arekere Mico Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru- 560 076. Mob: 7204917001

QuoteExpress
THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED
MARK TWAIN

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mrs. Mahalakshmi V, 2) Mr. Ravikumar S N	Loan Account No. 34019630000910 Loan Amount: Rs.3,20,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Northern Portion of Site No.79 BBMP Katha No.93/79, situated at Kogilu Villlage, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP and **Bounded on: East by:** Property of Chandrappa, **West by:** Road, **North by:** House of Chikkanna, **South by:** Remaining Southern Portion of same property. Measuring East to West: 24 feet and North to South: 18 feet in totally measuring 432 Sq.feet.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.01.2026	Rs.2,95,081.30 (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Eighty One and Thirty Paisa Only) due as on 06-01-2026
2	1) Mr. Manju M N, 2) Mrs. Pushpa	Loan Account No. 34019610000087 34019410000442 Loan Amount: Rs.17,75,200/- Rs.1,04,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for property bearing Site No.77, Khatha No.52, Assessment No.52 measuring East to West 30 ft (9.14 meter) and North to South 30 ft (9.14 meter) total measuring 900 Sq.feet (83.53 Sq.ft) situated at Totagere Village, Gopalapura Grama Panchayath, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and **Bounded on: East by:** Other Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.78, **South by:** Site No.76.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.01.2026	Rs.18,31,255.68 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five and Sixty Eight Paisa Only) due as on 06-01-2026
3	1) Mrs. Hemavathi, 2) Mr. Lakkanna, 3) Mr. Shivaraju L	Loan Account No. 32909630000572 32909630000609 Loan Amount: Rs.27,30,000/- Rs.15,95,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.218, formed in Sy.No.14, situated at Srinivasapura Colony, Gangagallu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore and **Bounded on the: East by:** Site No.217, **West by:** Site No.219, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.272. Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.feet.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 & 04-05-2025 Demand Notice Date: 08-01-2026	Rs.43,86,773.29 (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Three and Twenty Nine Paisa Only) due as on 04-01-2026
4	1) Mrs. Glory David Raj, 2) Mr. David R	Loan Account No. 31879410001025 31879440000719 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.142, Sy.No.02, measuring East to West 19 Ft and North to South 33 Ft, total measuring 627 Sq.feet situated at Peenya Plantation, Siddarthanagara, presently within the limits of BBMP and **Bounded on: East by:** House No.146, **West by:** Galli, **North by:** Galli, **South by:** House No.143.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 & 04-05-2025 Demand Notice Date: 08-01-2026	Rs.6,80,867.57 (Rupees Six Lakh Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Seven and Fifty Seven Paisa Only) due as on 04-01-2026
5	1) Mr. Nanjappa, Also at: M/s. Shree Bhatteshwara Swamy Provision Store, 2) Mrs. Munichikkamma	Loan Account No. 46459430000700 Loan Amount: Rs.3,75,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Property bearing No.112/103, situated at Marasandra Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, presently comes under the limits of Marenahalli Village Panchayat and **Bounded by the: East by:** Vacant Place, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Government Cannel, **South by:** Narayanamma. Measuring 35 X 25 Feet. Totally Measuring 875 Sq.feet.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08-01-2026	Rs.3,59,196.11 (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Six and Eleven Paisa Only) due as on 04-01-2026
6	1) Mr. Lokesh M, Also at: M/s. Sri Manjunatha Garage, 2) Mr. Manjunath V, 3) Mr. Kiran Kumar M	Loan Account No. 47519430000137 47519410000131 Loan Amount: Rs.20,80,532/- Rs.99,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing House List No.37, Old Khatha No.2/72/34, New Khatha No.203/37, situated at Hommadevanahalli Village, Basavanapura Panchayath, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and **Bounded as under: East by:** Site No.38, **West by:** Site No.36, **North by:** Property of Arogyaswamy, **South by:** Road. Measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft. Along with One Square ACC sheet House built in thereon, constructed with mud and bricks, with mud flooring, the doors and windows are made in jungle wood, there is no civic amenities in the schedule property.	Date of NPA: 04-05-2025 Demand Notice Date: 08-01-2026	Rs.21,14,255.54 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five and Fifty Four Paisa Only) due as on 06-01-2025
7	1) Mrs. Gangamma K, Prop. M/s. Manjunatha Tailor and Provision Store, Also at: M/s. Manjunatha Tailor and Provision Store, 2) Mr. Krishnamurthy N	Loan Account No. 32519440000130 Loan Amount: Rs.6,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site in Sy.No.36, presently BBMP Khatha No.1009/ Sy.No.36, situated at Marathahalli Village, Varthuru Hobali, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore. **East by:** Road, **West by:** Apanna's House, **North by:** Ganesh's House, **South by:** Taiva Saabi House. Measuring: East to West 19.0 Ft and North to South 22 ft, total measuring 418 Sq.feet.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08-01-2026	Rs.2,64,525.80 (Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Five and Eighty Paisa Only) due as on 06-01-2026
8	1) Mr. Manjunatha K, 2) Mrs. Venkatamma	Loan Account No. 47049630001250 Loan Amount: Rs.8,60,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Khanasumari No. 322/296/272 measuring East to West 35 feet (10.67 Meter) and North to South 90 feet, (27.43 meter) situated at Aralimaradhodi Village, Kodihalli Grama Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Govindappa, **West by:** Property belongs to Chinnaswamy, **North by:** Property belongs to Madhu, **South by:** Government Road.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.01.2026	Rs.8,73,691.80 (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Six Hundred Ninety One and Eighty Paisa Only) due as on 06-01-2026
9	1) Mrs. Munirathnamma N, 2) Mrs. Chandrika B M	Loan Account No. 46459630000387 46459630002265 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing E-Katha No.211/145, ID No.150300401000600292, situated at Bhaktarahalli Village, Hosakote Block, Bangalore Rural District, presently comes under the limits of Doddagattiganabbe Grama Panchayath and **Bounded on the: East by:** House of Hamsagiriyamma, **West by:** House of Nagappa, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House of Rathnamma. Measuring East to west 8.8392 mtrs and North to South 12.192 mtrs, in all measuring 107.76 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.01.2026	Rs.8,18,522.61 (Rupees Eight Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Two and Sixty One Paisa Only) due as on 06-01-2026

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 12.01.2026, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural | **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

Your Guide to Spicy Living | INDULGE | Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge are expected to officially announce the launch of 300 Karnataka Public Schools in the Kalyana Karnataka Region at a function in Yadrami on Monday. At present, the KKR has only 60 KPSs, compared to 79 in Belagavi, 98 in Bengaluru and 70 in Mysuru regions

Debate on MGNREGA? I'm ready: DCM

Shivakumar says he wants Kumarawamy to fight it out with him first – at House or in media

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said he was ready to accept the Opposition's challenge for an open debate on the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) at any time and on any platform.

The DCM, who was attending the Vokkaliga Expo in Bengaluru on Sunday, said, "Let them call. I will come for the discussion." When asked about Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's reactions to the development, he said it would be good if HDK fights it out with him first. "BJP state president, Leader of the Opposition, Kumaraswamy or any leaders who want to come, can come. I have accepted their challenge. It can be a public platform, the Assembly or a media forum. I am ready for the debate," he said.

Shivakumar said he knows how much work has been done under MGNREGA in Kanakapura taluk. "Kanakapura has been ranked Number 1 in MGNREGA implementation and the BJP-led Central government itself has given an award for it. I don't know whether Kumaraswamy, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi or Vijayendra are aware of this. The Centre has even sent 10 teams to probe for any irregularities," he said.

Reacting to Kumaraswamy calling Siddaramaiah a "leased chief minister", the DCM said, "We don't take his statements seriously. Siddaramaiah himself will respond to those remarks," he said. When asked about Kumaraswamy's possible reentry into state politics, he said, "Let him do politics from the village level."

Cong leaders in Belagavi hold protest against changes to rural job scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

CONGRESS leaders and workers held a one-day hunger strike on the premises of the Belagavi District Congress Committee office against the Central government's decision to rename and amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The party's state in-charge and AICC secretary Gopinath Palaniyappan accused the Union government of indulging in politics of hatred and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the amendments made to the scheme. He said the changes to MGNREGA were not merely administrative but amounted to a direct attack on the rural poor who depend on the programme for livelihood.

"The country has always progressed on the path of peace and social harmony. By altering this scheme and removing Mahatma Gandhi's name, the Centre is promoting divisive politics. This is akin to killing Gandhiji a second time. Our struggle will continue until the new law is withdrawn and will be intensified into a nationwide movement," he said.

Congress leader Rahul Jarkiholi addresses protesters at the Congress Bhavan in Belagavi on Sunday | EXPRESS

He further stated that the proposed Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill was not just a symbolic renaming but one that undermines the very foundation and principles of the employment guarantee programme.

Terming the MGNREGA as the backbone of rural development, DCC Bank Director Rahul Jarkiholi strongly criticised the Centre, for removing Gandhiji's name from that of the scheme. He said it amounted to rejecting the vision of Gram Swaraj and accused the Modi government of snatching employment opportunities from the poor.

Belabavi North MLA Raju Sait accused the BJP of adopting an authoritarian approach, saying that public consent should have been sought before making such changes. "The government must stand with the poor, not just big industrialists," he said.

Bailhongal MLA Mahantesh Koujalagi said the MGNREGA transformed rural India by ensuring 100 days of employment and empowering gram panchayats. He accused the Centre of deliberately placing states under financial strain and vowed to continue the struggle until justice is delivered.

City-based Army Major in S Sudan wins UN award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU-based Swathi Shantha Kumar, who is currently serving as Major in the Indian Army in South Sudan has been selected for the prestigious United Nations (UN) Secretary General Award 2025. The announcement came on January 7 that she won the award in the Gender category, which recognises initiatives that foster gender parity and advocate for gender-inclusive peacekeeping in alignment with the UN mandate.

Kumar and her team were shortlisted from the nominations received from across the UN peacekeeping missions and UN agencies worldwide. She secured the highest number of votes among four finalists in a UN-wide voting process.

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar

Kumar acts as the engagement team commander of the Indian battalion in the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) – the first Indian female engagement team in the mission.

The group has conducted many short- and long-distance patrols, integrated riverine patrols and dynamic air patrols to far-flung counties of the host nation. These operations contributed substantially to creating a conducive and secure environment for more than 5,000 women, enabling meaningful participation and community confidence-building. "During our first patrol, women were not speaking to us at all. Now they are approaching us by themselves to share their stories. And you can really see the relief they feel after talking to us about their concerns," said Kumar.

Kumar's mother Rajamani said, "As a mother, I am feeling very proud of my daughter. This award is completely the result of her hardwork and dedication. She is a very diligent officer and does her work with a lot of passion."

BALLARI CLASH

BJP plans protests in two cities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

LEADER of Opposition R Ashoka said the BJP will hold a massive convention in Ballari on January 17 and Mysuru on January 31.

Alleging an attempt to murder BJP MLA G Janardhana Reddy, he claimed that Congress workers fired shots at Reddy's residence after Reddy and B Sriramulu grew close politically. "Unfortunately, a Congress worker was killed in the incident. To protest this attack, a convention will be held in Ballari," he said.

The attempt on Reddy's life, the Kogilu evacuation, Mysuru drug racket and other issues will be discussed at the convention. Three more meetings will be held, for which the dates and venues will be announced later, he added.

He alleged that the Congress government is opposing the VB-G RAM G scheme as it is worried about bearing its share of 40% for the rural employment guarantee scheme.

He said the state will receive Rs 17,000 crore from the Centre, and with the State's share, a total of Rs 27,000 crore would be available under the scheme. He said BJP would not have opposed the scheme even if it had been named after Indira Gandhi.

CM slams BJP plan to hold Ballari-Bengaluru padayatra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

CHIEF Minister **Siddaramaiah** on Sunday slammed BJP over its plans to hold a padayatra from Ballari to Bengaluru over the recent Ballari clash.

"Let them do it. Peoplel will reject it. Congress carried out a padayatra for a specific reason - Lokayukta Santosh Hegde's report on illegal mining and Ballari being turned into a republic by the Reddy brothers. When we questioned it in the Assembly, (then CM) BS Yediyurappa and the Ballari brothers challenged us and so we took out the padayatra," the CM said, responding to a media query.

Siddaramaiah questioned the need for the BJP's padayatra now and blamed leaders Janardhana Reddy and B Sriramulu for the Ballari clash. "Who removed the banner? That was the trigger, isn't it? There would have been no instigation if the banner was not removed. The banner was about the inauguration of a Maharshi Valmiki statue. What was the need to remove it? BJP leaders are doing this out of jealously as they have lost the ground in Ballari after the Reddy brothers lost election there," he said.

On the BJP planning to meet the governor to urge him to reject the Hate Speech Bill, the CM said this Bill was unanimously approved and the governor has neither given his assent nor returned it. He said if invited they will meet the governor and convince him to give assent to the Bill.

To another query, he denied that there was a tussle for leadership change in the Congress government.

Balancing China, US is key to India's foreign policy: Ex-envoy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

FORMER Indian envoy to the United Nations **TS Tirumurthi** on Sunday said India's foreign policy must be guided by strategic autonomy, realism and confidence, rather than nostalgia for an international system that is rapidly losing relevance.

Speaking at the Mangaluru Lit Fest on the theme "Bharatheeya Thought in a Globalised World", Tirumurthi argued that New Delhi should adapt to a geopolitically driven world by firmly prioritising national interest while avoiding unnecessary entanglements. Tirumurthi emphasised that geopolitics has now taken precedence over trade, technology, and development, fundamentally altering how countries pursue their interests. In such an environment, India's foreign policy, he argued, must be pragmatic and multi-aligned rather than idealistic. He warned that reliance on any single power centre would be risky, especially as major powers increasingly prioritise transactional relationships over shared values.

On India's engagement with the US, Tirumurthi described the relationship as crucial, but currently strained. He pointed to trade frictions, tariff barriers, visa restrictions and continued US support to Pakistan as indicators that India no longer occupies a central place in Washington's strategic worldview. He said despite this, India should not yield to pressure. Unlike traditional US allies, India does not have a vested interest in preserving the old liberal order, he said and called for a new architecture in India-US ties based on mutual benefit and realistic expectations.

On China, Tirumurthi said India's foreign policy must combine firmness on security with openness on economic cooperation. He acknowledged unresolved border tensions, deep trade imbalances, and Beijing's strategic alignment with Pakistan as serious concerns. However, he said sustained confrontation is not a viable option, given shared borders and China's global economic footprint. India, he said, must find a calibrated way to engage China by separating strategic competition from mutually beneficial economic engagement.

Tirumurthi also urged India to recalibrate its expectations from Europe, noting that the EU remains distracted by transatlantic pressures and internal challenges. He said India should remain open to deeper engagement but not be passive in the face of moral lecturing or limited strategic commitment from European partners.

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
Door No.294/1D, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India. Tel: +91-866-2429999
Fax: +91-866-2429977, Email: contracts-ho@apmdc.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
REF No.APMDC/HO/P&C/Computers & Accessories - APMDC - DAV Model School at Suliyari/2025-26, Dt.12.01.2026

APMDC invites E-tender from reputed Agencies for "Supply of Computers & Accessories to APMDC - DAV Model School, Suliyari, Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh". For more information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit APMDC website (**www.apmdc.ap.gov.in**). The Tender document is available for downloading from APMDC website from 12.01.2026 and the last date for submission of quotation is **02.02.2026.**

Place: Vijayawada **Sd/- Managing Director,**
Date: 12.01.2026 **The A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited**
DIPR No.4743PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt.09/01/2026

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

No.: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/TKR/EE(Civil)/25-26/Cys-21 **Date: 07.01.2026**

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the various Civil Engineering works in Tumakuru Transmission (Operations) Zone against bid enquiry numbers: **KPTCL/2025-26/OW/ WORK_INDENT 2449/Call2 & KPTCL/2025-26/OW/ WORK_INDENT2698/Call2.**

The bids will be received through Electronic Mode Only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **http://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 12.01.2026 @ 11.30 hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during officer hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Electy.,),
Transmission(Operations) Zone, "Prasarana Bhavana",
1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV sub-station Premises,
Tumakuru - 572 103.

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl No.	Item	Tender ID	Last date of submitting bid	Bid opening date
1	Lime Powder 70MT	2025_RPL_824954_1	24.01.2026, 5 pm	29.01.2026, 11 am

For more details visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in/www.rplkerala.gov.in

RPL/S/78/2025-26 dtd 03.01.2026 Sd/-, Managing Director

D3/30/2026/I&PRD

NOTICE FOR ALLOTMENT OF VARIOUS REGIMENTAL SHOPS AT TRAINING BATTALION-I, MADRAS ENGINEER GROUP & CENTRE, BANGALORE

1. Refer Training Battalion-I, MEG & Centre advertisement dated : 15th Dec. 2025. The date of Submission of Application against Barber Shops / Cycle Shops (P-260/1/1 & P-260/1/2) is hereby extended till 20th January 2026.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Replacement of 2 Nos 500TR capacity, Water Cooled Screw Chiller at Main Campus and Condenser Water lines at ISITE Campus, Bengaluru
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/AC/1063/ETN-72A/2025-26 Dt. 09.01.2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 455.70 Lakhs
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	270 days / 09 months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 9,11,400/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH:17) AT BENGALURU
LAC. No. 45/2019

PETITIONERS/CLAIMANT S :
SRI. VENKATASWAMY .K & ORS
V/s
RESPONDENT : S.L.A.O. K.H.B

NOTICE/SUMMONS TO CLAIMANTS No. 3 & 18, U/o. 5 Rule 20 R/W Sec:151 OF CPC

CLAIMANT No. 3 : SRI. KRISHNAPPA, Father's name is not known, Aged about 65 years,

CLAIMANT No. 18: SRI. MARIYAPPA, Father's Name is not known, Aged about: 60 years, Both R/at: Yadavanahalli-Village, Attebele-Hobli, Anekal-Taluq, Bengaluru Urban-District.

Whereas the Respondent / KHB has made to refer the land acquisition Case to this Hon'ble Court U/S 77(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 (RFCTLARR New Act-2013) acquiring the land in respect of Sy.No.118, measuring 0-00.08 acre situated at Yadavanahalli-Village, Anekal-Taluq, Bengaluru, Bangalore District. Vide Govt. Declaration No: RD:204, Bhu.Swa. Be-2008, Dated: 15/03/2008 & award amount of Rs. 20,888/= vide cheque bearing No:705140, Dt: 07/02/2019, drawn on Corporation Bank of India, S.C. Road Branch, Bengaluru has been deposited in the Fixed Deposit before this Hon'ble Court. You are hereby informed to appear before this Court, **on 03.02.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** in person or through advocate to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the LAC petition will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

Given under my hand & seal of the Court, this 03.12.2025.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Respondent / KHB :
K.R. MANJUNATHA, Advocate
KAR/766/03
No.7, "SHIVASRI NILAYA", Basaveswara Layout, Naghashettyhalli Main Road, RMV Post, Bengaluru-560094.
Mob : 9916222468 / 7899389110
Email : krmanjunatha61@gmail.com

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com
/thenewindianxpress
@newindianxpress
+The New Indian Express
Google Play App Store

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

The Chief Engineer Ele., Bangaluru Rural Area Zone, BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tender for sub-divisions of BRAZ jurisdiction for Providing Electrical infrastructure to the IP sets by extending 11kV lines, erection of 25 kVA star 1 (4 star rated) distribution transformers and extension of LT line **on partial turnkey basis (Major material DTC will be supplied by the BESCOM)** on item wise fixed rate contract on percentage quoting basis at various sub-divisions of BRAZ for a period of **one year** through KPP portal in two cover system.

Enquiry No's for SC category	Enquiry No's for ST category	Enquiry No's for CAT-II-(A) Category	Enquiry No's for CAT-I Category	Enq. No's for others	Enq Nos above one crore
CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2025-26/ ET 126, 129, 130, 135 and 143	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2025-26/ ET 134 and 147	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2025-26/ ET 122, 139, 145, 148 and 149	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2025-26/ ET 125	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2025-26/ ET 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 132, 133,136,137,138, 140, 141, 142, 144, 146, 150	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2025-26/ ET 151, 152, 153,154,155 and 156

Note:1) The amount put to tender for **more than Rs.1 crore, any one can participate**
2) The EMD shall be paid is 2.5% for the amount put to tender upto Rs. 20 lakhs and 2% for the amount put to tender above Rs. 20 lakhs upto Rs. 01 crore for General category subject to minimum of **Rs. 50,000/-**
3) The EMD shall be paid 1.5% for the amount put to tender above Rs. 01 crore, subject to minimum to Rs. **2,00,000**/-.
4) Incase of SC , ST , CAT –II (A) category, the EMD shall be paid is 1.25 % for the amount put to tender upto Rs. 20 lakh and 1% for the amount put to tender above Rs. 20 lakh and upto Rs. 1 crore , subject to minimum of **Rs. 25,000/-**

Time Schedule
(A) Bid document available on e-portal on or after **19-01-2026** (B) Pre-Bid meeting: **28-01-2026 @ 11:00** Hrs, IST (C) Last date for submission of bid document: **03-02-2026** upto **17:00** Hrs, IST (D) Date and Time of opening technical bid: **04-02-2026 @** 17:00 Hrs, IST

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP portal from the website **kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in.** on or after **19-01-2026** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. All the payments such as tender processing fee, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further any clarification contact help desk **09240214000 & 09240214001 Or e-mail: support@eprochehlpdesk.com and 080-23500164 or 9449844798.**

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Electy.,
BRAZ, BESCOM

KOLAR DIST., CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD., KOLAR
Kolar Dairy, N.H – 75, Huthur Post, KOLAR – 563102.
PHONE NO.7019559381/7760964551 FAX NO. 282303 E-mail:uhtindents@gmail.com

NO. KOMUL / Mktg / T.TENDER / 00635/5361/ 2025-26 Date : 08.01.2026

E – PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system through e-procurement portal only)

Kolar Milk Union Ltd., Kolar, invites tenders for the transportation routes for the following.

Sl. No.	Tender Name	Details	Capacity of the Vehicle
1	UHT Milk Transportation for Dealers	Tenders are invited for transportation of UHT milk variants from Kolar Dairy to different destinations of within Karnataka & outside Karnataka (Dealers) on Biennial Rate contract basis	06 MT to 30 MT
2	UHT Milk Transportation to Andaman Nicobar, Indian Navy along with liaisoning work	Tenders are invited for transportation of UHT milk variants from Kolar Dairy to Andaman Nicobar Port Blair, Indian Navy along with liaisoning work on Annual Rate contract basis.	25 MT to 30 MT

The Contractor can have access to the E-tender Documents through the following website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Calendar of events is given below.

The Calendar of events is given below.

(1) Access to E-tender Documents: **12.01.2026 to 11.02.2026 within 05.00 PM. (2)** Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **01.02.2026, within 05.00 PM. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **11.02.2026, within 05.00 PM. (4)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **13.02.2026, 11.00 AM onwards. (5)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **18.02.2026, 11.00 AM onwards. (6)** Place of Opening of Technical and Financial Bid: **Kolar Milk Union's Head Office, Kolar.**

The Details such as EMD, Cost of Tender forms, Terms and conditions of the tender can be obtained through the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Managing Director
Kolar Milk Union Ltd.,

A 45-year-old man was allegedly bludgeoned to death in Khannagar, Odisha, on Saturday. The deceased was Prakash Das. Police said someone had smashed Das' head with a stone, leading to fatal injuries. Das was unmarried and had a strained relationship with his family

Act against my son: Ramadoss Senior to ECI

Alleges that Anbumani had forged the documents related to the extension of his party presidency for political gain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

PMK founder **S Ramadoss** has petitioned the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking legal and criminal action against his son Anbumani Ramadoss for holding alliance talks with the AIADMK, claiming that the latter is not even a member of the party.

He also alleged that Anbumani had forged the documents related to the extension of his party presidency, which were submitted before the commission.

In his letter to the ECI, the veteran leader said the attempt by Anbumani (to forge an alliance) with the AIADMK is not merely illegal but also merits civil and criminal action for impersonating him and the PMK. "Kindly take appropriate legal action for the same, apart from registering a criminal case for the unauthorised use of my party name for political gain by Anbumani and others at the earliest," Ramadoss said, adding that the issue should be widely publicised so as to enable political parties to be cautious henceforth with such 'unauthorised persons'.

Ramadoss also sent copies of the letter to the state's Chief Electoral Officer, Director General of Police (Law and Order), and Home Secretary.

Stating that he has been running the PMK from July 16, 1989, and the party has had many MLAs, MPs and central ministers, the PMK founder said, "However in the recent past, my party lost its recognition due to poor performance in the elections during the tenure of Anbumani, who was holding the post of party president (May 28, 2022 to May 28, 2025). But Anbumani committed fraud and forgery against the ECI and obtained fraudulent documents for presidency extension which was not authorised by the party or bylaws," the PMK founder said.

Ramadoss also said the above case was a subject matter before the Delhi High Court, which clarified that Anbumani was not declared as president by the ECI as it has no authority to decide it. "As such, from December 4, 2025, Anbumani cannot claim to be the president of PMK. However, I assumed charge as the president of the PMK as advised by the ECI via its communication dated November 27, 2025," he added.

3RD RAPE COMPLAINT

Kerala MLA Rahul remanded for 14 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Pathanamthitta

AFTER a dramatic midnight arrest in connection with a fresh rape complaint, Palakkad MLA **Rahul Mamkoottathil** was remanded to judicial custody for 14 days by the Pathanamthitta district magistrate's court.

Police said Rahul was taken into custody following a covert operation at a private hotel in Palakkad. Officers first secured mobile phones at the reception and ensured no one else was present in the room.

He was then taken to Pathanamthitta at daybreak. The arrest was based on a fresh rape complaint received via email. The Special Investigation Team, led by G Poonguzhali IPS, questioned the MLA after completing the medical examination. The survivor's statement has been recorded via video conferencing. With the latest complaint, the total number of sexual harassment cases registered against Rahul has risen to three.

According to the complaint, the survivor alleged that Rahul had used force and rape her in a hotel room and also assaulted her. She also alleged that he coerced her into financial transactions, including purchasing a flat, and subjected her to economic exploitation. The alleged incident is said to have taken place in Thiruvalla. Apart from the rape charge, as per the remand report, Rahul allegedly attempted to intimidate survivors and pressure them to withdraw from the case. It also alleged that the accused had recorded private chats and nudes of survivors on his mobile phone.

> **Rahul coerced her into financial transactions, including purchasing a flat, and subjected her to economic exploitation**
>
> —Victim

The complaint, initially received by the Chief Minister's Office, was later forwarded to the Crime Branch. The police described Mamkoottathil as a "habitual offender".

It claimed that he had misused marriage promises to exploit women and that there was a possibility of similar offences being repeated. The remand application was filed before the Thiruvalla Judicial First Class Magistrate Court by DySP Muralidharan N of the SIT. As the Thiruvalla court, which has jurisdiction over the case, was closed on Sunday. Heavy police security was deployed as protesters blocked the police vehicle, triggering clashes. There were also attempts to manhandle the MLA while he was being taken into the hospital.

Mamkoottathil is presently lodged in Mavelikkara Sub Jail. The report stated that the accused deliberately befriended the survivor, a married woman, through social media and allegedly raped her under the promise of marriage. On Sunday afternoon, DYFI and Yuva Morcha activists staged protests when Rahul was brought back from the Pathanamthitta General Hospital.

Lakkundi family wants unearthed treasure back

Ornaments found at the construction site near Gadag | EXPRESS

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

A treasure was found at a site where the construction of a house was going on, at the historical Lakkundi village on Saturday. The family promptly handed over the copper pot in which gold ornaments were kept to the ASI officials.

Soon after the treasure was found at the construction site, Prajwal, an eighth standard student from the family, ran towards the village and announced that they had struck gold. Villagers then alerted gram panchayat, police, ASI and district administration officials.

Getting information that the family had struck gold, the Gadag SP and officials from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), district administration and gram panchayat rushed to the spot.

Later, an ASI officer from Dharwad, who visited Lakkundi, further examined the gold ornaments, weighing 466 gm, and said that it was not of significant historical value, prompting the family to demand it back.

In the meantime, Lakkundi Development Authority (LDA) State Advisory Committee member Siddu Patil called Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and told him that a gold treasure had been found. Siddaramaiah instructed LDA to hand over all the gold to the district administration.

Appreciating the honesty of the family, LDA members felicitated the head of the family Kasturavva and son Prajwal.

But a gram panchayat official, on condition of anonymity, said the family had started the construction of the house without permission. "ASI will probably take control of the house construction area. But nothing is certain and a decision will be taken at a meeting on Monday," he added.

Siddu Patil said, "The CM told us to hand over the gold to the district administration. We will discuss it with minister HK Patil and take care of the family that handed over the gold ornaments."

POLL PRAYERS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah leaves after visiting the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday | EXPRESS

27 AP AND TG YOUTH RESCUED FROM MYANMAR

Visakhapatnam: 27 Indian youths stranded in Myanmar, have safely returned to India following the intervention of Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu. Minister's Camp Office in Srikakulam stated that the rescued youths, hailing from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, went to Myanmar a few months ago after being lured with lucrative jobs. Instead, they were deceived, and subjected to forced labour, cyber scams, physical abuse, and other hardships. The victims recorded videos detailing their ordeal, and sent them to the Civil Aviation Minister Minister. In these videos, they explained how they were trafficked under false pretences, and trapped in dire conditions. **ENS**

Telangana web unravelled: 18 held in ₹547 crore cyber fraud bust

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Khammam

A Rs 547 crore cyber fraud, run by a gang that lured unemployed youth into opening bank accounts to launder money, has been unearthed by district police. As many as 18 persons allegedly involved in the racket have been arrested, Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt said at a media conference at Penuballi police station on Sunday.

The case surfaced following a complaint lodged on December 24, 2025, by Modugu Saikiran of Thumburu village in Sathupalli mandal. Police registered a case and launched an investigation, which revealed that Udatneni Vikas Chowdary, Potru Manoj Kalyan, Potru Praveen, Meda Bhanu Prakash, Meda Satish and Morampudi Chennakeshava duped unemployed youth from villages around Sathupalli.

Police said the accused promised them jobs and opened bank accounts in their names at reputed banks. The account credentials were later taken over and used to channel proceeds of cybercrime running into crores.

Police officials escort the accused who were allegedly involved in the fraud | EXPRESS

The gang allegedly operated in coordination with international cybercriminals and ran call centres abroad. Through these, they targeted Indian citizens with fake investment schemes, matrimonial proposals, reward points, online gaming, betting, share market investments and cryptocurrency trading. Victims were added to Telegram groups and later sent fraudulent links, through which money was siphoned off.

Investigators found that the proceeds were initially routed through accounts opened via agents, then transferred to current accounts and finally credited to the personal accounts of the accused. The money was eventually converted into US dollars and cryptocurrency.

Police checked the bank accounts of the prime accused, their family members and close associates. They uncovered massive financial transactions and balance, which included Rs 114.18 crore in the account of Manoj, Rs 45.62 crore in two accounts of his wife Meda Bhanupriya.

10 arrested from Surat for cyber fraud, 311 credit and debit cards seized

Coimbatore: The Coimbatore city cybercrime police arrested 10 persons at Surat in Gujarat on Friday in connection with a cyber-fraud case. Those arrested have been identified T Rajni Bhadaliya, H Vishwas Radadiya, H Savan Radadiya, T Gohil Vijay, S Jitendra Singh Rathod, G Mahendra Singh Girase, M Miral Chovatiya, R Kapil Dhodre, M Chovatiya Meet and J Pal Chandan. All accused belong to Surat. Police also seized items such as ₹3.5 lakh in cash, 311 credit and debit cards, 10 mobile phones, one swiping machine and a cheque book. A press release issued by the police stated that on September 8, 2025, Samuel Chandrabose (71) of Kavundampalayam in the city received a fraudulent RTO challan APK file on his mobile phone. To check if a fine had been imposed, he installed the file on his phone. Subsquently, cybercriminals gained remote access to his phone rendering it unusable. Later, he began receiving messages about the withdrawal of a fixed deposit amounting ₹16.50 lakh from his bank account. **ENS**

People don't need PM's history lessons, says Priyank Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ BENGALURU \Gulbarga

MINISTER **Priyank Kharge** launched a blistering attack on the Central government Saturday, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of focusing on ancient history rather than delivering on modern developmental promises.

The clash began after the PM's remarks at the Somnath Swabhiman Parv in Gujarat, where he spoke about the resilience of the Somnath Temple, using its history of reconstruction as a symbol of India's cultural strength.

Priyank, who handles the IT/BT and Rural Development portfolios in Karnataka, dismissed the Prime Minister's speech as a distraction from the government's 11-year track record. "What do we expect from the Prime Minister? History lessons? Where is the blueprint for the country? It's been 11 years of only slogans. What happened to Make in India, Skill India or Digital India? They have all flopped," he said. The minister said that if citizens wanted history lessons, they would "go to college" and criticised the tendency to brand critics as "anti-national".

On the issue of tax devolution, Priyank turned his guns at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was in Kerala to kick off the BJP's 2026 election campaign. Priyank rejected the idea that the Centre should lecture Karnataka on governance, pointing instead at the ongoing dispute over tax distribution.

Priyank demanded the state's "rightful" share of tax devolution, noting that Karnataka is a top contributor to the national GST and IT returns pools. He said Karnataka provides jobs and builds infrastructure without significant help from the Central government. The exchange highlights the deepening divide between the Congress-led Karnataka government and the BJP-led Centre. Karnataka leaders have frequently alleged that the state is being "shortchanged" in fund allocations despite its high revenue contribution to the national treasury.

> **What do we expect from the Prime Minister? History lessons? Where is the blueprint for the country? It's been 11 years of only slogans** —Priyank Kharge

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 31.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.30 AM), for recovery of Rs. 1,04,61,080.82/- (One Crore Four Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Eighty and Eighty Two Paisa only.) plus further interest as on 08.01.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) M/S I PHARMACEUTICALS,** 45/1 Ground Floor , Ramarao Layout, 3RD Cross, Kathriguppe Main Road Banashankari 3RD Stage Bengaluru -560085. **(2) Mr. Mallesh Gowda,** Gangothri Pavithra Paradise Bangara No.003, Ground Floor, Vishnuvardhan Road, Padmanabhanagar Bengaluru - 560061. **(3) Smt. Jayalakshmi** W/o Malleshgowda, Gangothri Pavithra Paradise Bangara No.003 Ground Flr Vishnuvardhan Road Padmanabhanagar Bengaluru-560061. **(4) Mr. Abhishek M** Gangothri Pavithra Paradise Bangara Flat No 003 Ground Floor Gangothri Pavithra Paradise Dr Vishnuvardhan Bengaluru -560061.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **30.01.2026 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	ALL that piece and parcel of the exiting residential flat bearing No.003 Ground Floor, Gangothri Pavithra Paradise, Subramanyapura main road, kadirenahalli, Bengaluru -560070. East : Site No. 7,6,5 & 4, West : Foyer, North : Flat No. 002, South : Site No. 1& 2. Property Belongs to Mr. Mallesh Gowda, Smt. Jayalakshmi and Mr. Abhishek M.	₹. 86.10	₹. 8.61	₹. 1.00 Lakh

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9535093706 and 9039609346 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 09.01.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 31.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM), for recovery of Rs. 1,17,76,853.78 (Rupees One Crore Seventeen Lakh Seventy Six Thousands Eight Hundred Fifty Three And Paisa Seventy Eight Only) as on 07.01.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) SDDP Enterprises,** No.4, K No 149 1, R S Palya, Bangalore-560033. **(2) Lakshmipathy V,** 253, 8th Cross,St Anns School Road, Bhovi Colony, Near Doddamma Temple, Rama Murthy Nagar, Bengaluru- 560016.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **30.01.2026 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	All that part and parcel of residential property bearing Site No.70, Khatha No.166, House List No.193 situated at ITI notified area, Kowdanahalli Village, K R Pura, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 33 feet and North to South 45 feet in all measuring 1485 Sq.ft and now the property comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP bearing municipal No.70, HL No.166 BBMP Ward No.26 Bangalore and the property stands in the name of Mr. V. Lakshmipathy S/o Late Sri Venkatappa and intended to be offered as security to the proposed loan and bounded on the: East by: Site belongs to Smt.Kamalamma, West by: Road, North by: Govt. Property, South by: Site No.69.	₹. 104.30 Lakh	₹. 10.43 Lakh	₹. 1.00 Lakh

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9483544116 and 8598009010 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 08.01.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

EDITORIAL

There never was a good war or a bad peace — Benjamin Franklin

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TRUMP PUSHES, INDIA MUST RESPOND WITH STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

US President Donald Trump is pushing India, and not subtly. Tariff threats, public irritation over India's Russian oil purchases, and backing for a sanctions bill targeting third countries all point to a familiar Trump doctrine: pressure first, partnership later. For India, this moment demands clarity, not accommodation or ambiguity. The proposed legislation authorising 500 percent tariffs and secondary sanctions on countries importing Russian energy is economic coercion, plain and simple. If implemented, it would directly undermine India's energy security and penalise it for acting in its national interest. No responsible government can allow affordable energy for 1.4 billion people to become collateral damage in Washington's domestic politics.

The pressure is not merely economic; the rhetoric is just as troubling. US secretary of commerce Howard Lutnick's claim that a trade deal collapsed because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not personally call Trump reduces diplomacy and negotiation to ego management. The external affairs ministry has dismissed the claim. Still, the signal from Washington is unmistakable: obedience is expected. India should not negotiate from a position of deference. This is why strategic autonomy is no longer a slogan; it is a shield. India's recent diplomatic choreography is telling. External affairs minister S Jaishankar began 2026 in Europe, with stops in Paris and Luxembourg, participation in the India-Weimar Triangle with France, Germany and Poland; and preparations for visits by the German Chancellor and French President, as well as an India-EU summit.

Amid the strains of the Russia-Ukraine war, fragmented supply chains and global economic uncertainty; India and Europe share common interests: resilient trade networks, diversified energy sources, and a cautious approach to unilateral sanctions that disrupt markets. European capitals, while not free of their own strategic pressures, approach India as a consequential partner rather than a variable to be disciplined. This does not signal a turning away from the US. India continues to value defence cooperation, Indo-Pacific coordination, and deep economic ties with Washington. But partnerships built on leverage and threat are structurally fragile. Strategic autonomy, as India understands it, is not neutrality or avoidance, but the capacity to choose, balance, and diversify relationships without external coercion. India's expanding engagement with Europe, then, is less about hedging against America than asserting agency. If Washington's pressure is intended to hasten compliance, New Delhi's experience suggests the opposite. At this moment, strategic autonomy is India's true leverage.

CBFC CUTS MUST GUIDE, NOT DICTATE CONTENT

In India, and especially in Tamil Nadu, politics and cinema are deeply intertwined. Films often do far more than entertain: they shape public opinion, provoke debate and, in several instances, have launched political careers. That is why the recent certification controversies surrounding Vijay's *Jana Nayagan* and Sivakarthikeyan's *Parasakthi* feel larger than isolated disputes. They point to deeper anxieties about who controls narratives—and when. The unusually strong reaction of the CBFC—delayed certification for *Jana Nayagan* owing to late-surfacing objections, and extensive cuts suggested for *Parasakthi*—stands out. Critics argue that a body meant to certify films increasingly appears to exercise wide discretionary powers, leaving filmmakers uncertain about boundaries and treating audiences as incapable of forming their own judgements.

Parasakthi revisits a real historical movement that shaped the State's political imagination. The CBFC appears keen to evaluate such films through contemporary sensitivities. But that risks flattening history and sanitising uncomfortable truths. *Jana Nayagan* has reportedly been asked to tone down its political messaging. When stories of power and protest are selectively muted, the concern is not merely artistic but historical. The contrast becomes sharper when other overtly political films receive clearance with minimal resistance. This uneven application of standards reinforces the perception that certification decisions are influenced more by circumstance than by clearly articulated principles. With Assembly elections drawing closer, such interventions inevitably acquire a connotation of their own, prompting speculation about timing and intent—even if none is officially stated.

This debate is not about dismantling film certification. Most agree that some regulatory oversight is necessary. But the law mandates that the CBFC certify films, not censor or morally adjudicate them. Legal experts have repeatedly urged restraint and consistency. Delays and last-minute objections, however, carry serious financial consequences and weaken creative confidence. The problem has been compounded since the abolition of the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal in 2021, which offered swift, informed recourse from people who understood cinema. In its absence, what could have been a cultural moment during Pongal has turned into a cautionary tale—in which every cut inches closer to control, and audiences are presumed unable to think, interpret, or choose for themselves.

QUICK TAKE

THREADS OF IRONY

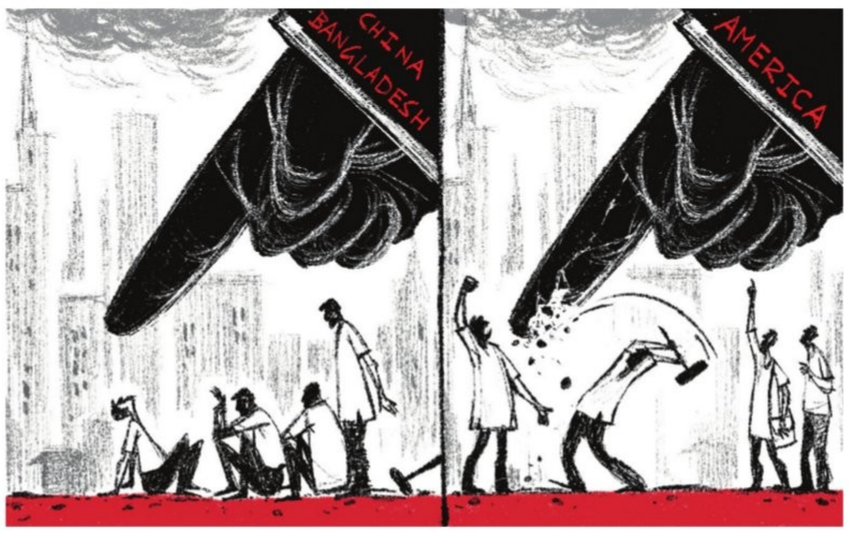
On January 9, the government discontinued the black Bandhgala as the formal uniform for Indian Railway Service officers. The aim was to clear official spaces of colonial symbols and reshape work culture in Indian terms. The decision sounds simple. The garment's journey is not. The Bandhgala's origins lie in princely Rajputana. The ancient angrakha acquired colonial airs thanks to the tailors of London's Savile Row, who refined its cut. Today, it blends Indian aesthetics with British formal-wear sensibilities; it's acceptable as formal Indian attire. That is where the irony rests. Narendra Modi himself renewed its appeal by wearing it in Japan in 2014. Sometimes, meaning shifts quietly, even when intentions are loud.

Selective anger, political alliances, and anti-imperialist rhetoric show lasting moral double standards, where authoritarianism and Islamist violence are forgiven, while only Western actions face constant blame

FROM NEW YORK TO JNU VIA CARACAS, SKIPPING DHAKA

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE



SOURAV ROY

DESPITE teaching in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for nearly a quarter of a century—and voluntarily retiring in early 2024—I must confess that I remained somewhat of an alien in 'planet JNU'. Three recent events confirmed this sense of puzzlement mingled with pique.

The first was the recent outbreak of 'anti-national' slogan-shouting of January 6-7 on campus to mark the 'anniversary' of the 2020 attack on JNU. I covered that event in my book titled *JNU: Nationalism and India's Uncivil War*. Many national leaders and cabinet ministers, including Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, both distinguished JNU alumns, deplored that attack.

So did I. Letting loose thugs and vigilantes on campus to settle political scores is not desirable, especially on a thinking campus such as JNU, with a tradition of vibrant debate and dissent. One of my own former colleagues, who had stepped out of his house to see what was going on, was also injured, albeit not seriously. How can beating up a teacher, that too a bystander, be condoned?

That the JNU Students' Union, still Leftist, would commemorate the 2020 campus invasion, combined with the US surgical strike in Caracas, is hardly surprising. But should the protesters also raise obnoxious slogans against our prime minister and home minister, as reported in the national media? No. Who raised such slogans and why? Were they JNU-ites or outsiders, infiltrating the campus to foment trouble? Only an impartial inquiry will answer such questions. The pro-government JNU administration is sure to take action if any students are found guilty. If no action is taken, we might assume that the perpetrators cannot be identified, whether deliberately or inexplicably. Politics is murky; JNU politics especially so.

Speaking of which, let me come to the second of the three grounds of this column. Newly minted New York mayor Zohran Mamdani's meeting with Umar Khalid's parents and message of support to his partner, Banojyotsna Lahiri. What is Mamdani's *locus standi* in the matter is a legitimate question that ruling party spokespersons have repeatedly asked in TV debates.

That there is an Islamist-Leftist alliance is a plausible, even obvious, explanation. These alliances are not merely local but worldwide, and stand the test of further scrutiny. These groups are also well-funded and lubricated by global media networks. But does this mean 'jail, not bail', the reverse of what the Supreme Court advised? Why should some 'draconian' Acts hold an undertrial guilty until proven innocent? Why not a speedy sentencing or bail instead? These, to my mind, are equally legitimate questions.

But speaking of Mamdani's intervention in the matter, if his heart bleeds for the Khalids and Imams of India, why not also for the many innocent lynched Hindus in Bangladesh? From Ananda Gopal Ganguly, the 70-year-old Hindu priest brutally murdered and decapitated in 2016, to Khokon Chandra Das, stabbed and hacked multiple times, then set on fire just a few days ago. What about the Hindu priest, Chinmoy Krishna Das, a conscientious objector against Islamist violence, arrested on sedition charges in November 2024 and released on bail only in April of the following year, after an international outrage? Mamdani has been consistently silent on such atrocities against Hindus, even though his mother, Mira Nair, is Hindu. What does that say about his credibility?

Finally, former Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro's kidnapping and arrest, along with his wife, by the US special forces on President Donald J Trump's orders. I remember Hugo Chávez's calling on JNU in March 2005, during his four-day official visit to India. What a hero's welcome he received! Outside his own country and barring, perhaps, Cuba, his reception in JNU must have been unprecedented in its enthusiasm. Chávez seized foreign assets, nationalised Venezuela's oil business, and, as with many other Communist dictatorships, arguably set his country's course to rack and ruin.

Maduro, a 'Chavista' who stole the Venezuelan presidential election in 2018, as declared by that country's national assembly, destroyed what was left of a once-prosperous democracy. Over 50 countries, including of course the US, refused to recognise him as Venezuela's legitimate head of state. What is more, from the Indian standpoint, he was a strange kind of Marxist. He and his wife, Cilia Adela Flores, are ardent devotees of Sathya Sai Baba. I don't know any Indian Communist who belongs to such a fraternity. Although during the Indian 'godman's' recent 100th birth anniversary celebrations, the who's who of Indian politics, from the president and prime minister of India to many somewhat lower down the ladder of power, were in attendance.

While one cannot easily justify the US's snatching of Maduro, let us compare the Indian response to another act of blatant international aggression, which went against the rule-based world order, not to mention the lame-duck United Nations. Of course, I am referring to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the behest of its strongman president, Vladimir Putin. The four-year, still ongoing war, has claimed over a million lives. In the US raid on Venezuela, there were fewer than 50 casualties. The very same people who are shouting themselves hoarse in India over US 'imperialism', far from condemning Russia, supported Putin's invasion.

Why the double standards, one wonders, whether it comes to Mamdani's concern for Umar Khalid or the crescendo of condemnation of the US action in Latin America. Or closer home, in the JNU student protests, which, never in my experience, denounced Chinese atrocities in Inner Mongolia or Tibet. For that matter, I have rarely heard discussions or critiques anywhere in India of Mao's devastating, some would say genocidal, misadventures such as the 'Great Leap Forward' or 'Cultural Revolution'.

Anti-imperialism, by default, is anti-Western, especially anti-American. It is rarely anti-Communist or anti-Islamist, for reasons both historical and ideological. But changing this stereotype may well be the first step in meaningful engagement with our world in 2026.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

UTTARAYAN WISDOM

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

HAPPY Makara Sankranti in advance, dear readers, and Pongal, Lohri, and Bhogali Bihu. The festival marks the sun's entry into Makara (Capricorn), signifying longer days, thanks for harvests and, especially, gratitude to Lord Surya, the sun god, by whose light we live. He embarks this day on his north-bound course, the Uttarayan.

Beyond its festive traditions like kite-flying and special food, this ancient holy date is deeply layered in Indian theology with stories. The best-known is probably in the Mahabharata. Bhishma Pitamah was struck down by Arjuna's arrows on the tenth day of the battle of Kurukshetra. But he had the boon of *ichha mrityu*, of choosing when to die. So, Arjuna shot a bed of arrows under him, on which he lay for fifty-eight days, waiting for Makara Sankaranti. This was because the holy day, when Surya commences his Uttarayan, is considered an auspicious period for souls to attain liberation. During his time on the arrow bed, though enduring great pain, he shared profound knowledge on governance and dharma with Yudhishthira. Especially, he imparted the precious gift of the Vishnu Sahasranaamam, the Thousand Names of Lord Vishnu, that we still hear today, and many of us memorise.

The story that goes straight to the Indian heart is about Surya meeting his son Shani, whose domain is Capricorn. A father goes to his son's house on this day, healing their long rift and annually renewing their ties, for Shani comes from a broken home. His busy father didn't care for him as a boy, and his mother was sent away for deception.

This is actually a teaching story for us mortals, offering relatives, friends, and colleagues who have quarrelled an auspicious opportunity to reconnect without loss of face and resolve their various conflicts. Sweets made of nourishing til and gud (sesame and jaggery) are shared across the land, some with the pleasant words, "eat til-gud and speak sweetly".

Here, it seems worthwhile to reflect a little on Shani Dev, the lord of Makara. Shani, or Saturn, is a powerful figure among the nine planets, or Navagraha, that are hailed as influencers of frail human destiny. He is '*the deity of* karma, *justice, time and retribution*', and delivers consequences according to one's attitude and behaviour.

Ego revolts him. A story has it that when Ravana subdued the celestials, he arrogantly ordered the Navagraha to lie face down on the steps of his throne so that he could walk up on their backs. But Sage Narada dropped by and casually observed that Ravana lacked the guts to step on them face-up. Ravana fell into the trap and told the Navagraha to turn over. They did, and Shani glared at him with the full force of his malefic gaze. Ravana's downfall began right then, with Surpanakha rushing in, shrieking.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

An auspicious date deeply layered in Indian theology, Makar Sakranti consists of many tales with Shani, or Saturn, being a central figure. Although associated with prolonged periods of bad luck, the lord of Makara is also considered to be deeply empathetic for flailing humanity due to his own hardships

Shani is also distinguished as 'Shanishvara', the Lord Shani. Ishvara is a name reserved exclusively for Lord Shiva, so how did that happen? The tale goes that Shani showed up on Dasha duty even for Shiva, humbly apologetic but wholly unafraid. Delighted by Shani's sincerity, our Ashutosh or the readily pleased Lord, pretended that even he could not avoid Shani. He 'hid' inside a rudraksha on Parvati's neck for a token seven-and-a-half *nazhigai* or *ghadi*, units of 24 minutes, and blessed Shani forevermore with the title 'Shanishvara'.

Shani is a very real persona for many, whom they're deeply invested in. You have only to see the throng of devotees outside his shrines, the long lines for prasad, and the atmosphere of intense fervour to recognise his importance in our lives even today. I don't see it as superstition but as a cultural connection to a stern yet just concept that demands that we upgrade our better selves. Shani has a refined taste, loves sapphires and blue flowers, and is said to have a glowing dark skin, with an intelligent crow for a vehicle. So, plaintiffs often wear black or dark blue clothes on Saturdays and give away black sesame, iron, black cloth, and dark oils like mustard and gingelly in an offering.

However, I wonder if people know how sad it is to give money to beggar children asking for alms in Shani's name on Saturdays. They're innocently inviting us to transfer our bad luck to them, as if they were not wretched enough already. When told about this symbolism, I decided not to dump my woes on others symbolically but to responsibly try to work off my *prarabdha*, or ongoing karma, myself, with a prayer to God to accept my effort.

The name Shanaishchara means slow-moving. His *Sadeysati* is dreaded, the long seven-and-a-half years of bad luck called Shani Dasha or Shani's phase that is believed to afflict every person at some point. One-third of the *Sadeysati* sees the onset of trouble, the next sees stagnation, and the last sees improvement. However, Shani Dasha is actually a huge window of opportunity for spiritual growth by making that extra effort to be kind and good, because that's what really moves him and lessens our troubles. There's also the cheerful conviction that Shani gives our horoscopes a parting kick towards good luck.

Turns out the stern lord of Makarai is a big softie underneath, brimming with sympathy for flailing humanity, for he knows a lot about bad times through experience. He encourages us to resolve quarrels, expel toxicity, and be nice to others as the bright, new season begins. These are his very personal messages to us, embedded in Makara Sankranti.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Authority abused

Ref: *Tariff test: How Trump plans to win even if he loses* (Jan 11). The ongoing debate on Trump's tariff policy highlights a critical examination of constitutional and economic powers in the US. The Trump administration invoking IEEPA underscores authority and legislative oversight.
Muhammed Fasi, Koduvally

Deep roots

Ref: *Greenland, Genghis & return of might* (Jan 11). The author has made striking observations, serving as a powerful reminder that while the might of nations may shift across the global map, our deepest connections remain rooted in the local traditions that define us. Balancing the icy prospects of Greenland with the warmth of hilsa was a masterstroke. The mention of *maachh* brought the focus back to local culture, making the column very relatable.
M V Ramakrishna, Chennai

Underestimating India

Ref: *Why Washington needs to call Delhi* (Jan 11). The author is right to call the current US-India friction a geopolitical misstep by Washington. Treating a civilisational power like India as a junior partner ignores 21st-century realities. India's demographic strength, its pivotal role in the Indo-Pacific, and its deep integration with American technology leaders make it an indispensable partner.
Afnan S P, email

US's decay

Great nations rarely fall to invasion; they decay when ego displaces judgement. Washington risks that path today. US President Donald Trump confuses spectacle with strategy and pressure with diplomacy. His public browbeating of India is not strength but folly—weakening alliances, emboldening rivals, and revealing an America undermining itself instead of leading with balance and foresight globally.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Teak alternatives

Ref: *Mind ecological balance while raising teak output* (Jan 10). Wood plastic composites can be an alternative to teak in terms of durability, low maintenance and water/insect resistance, making it ideal for house construction and furniture. Composites such as fibreglass, carbon fibre, and metal can be used for boat building. Research is needed for fast-growing varieties and allowing farmers to harvest in their land for commercial purposes.
Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 62, No. 10 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
First the MP from South Goa gets a notice and now a very distinguished former Navy Chief is summoned. How pathetic can the SIR get?

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Under pressure from the BJP, you forgot to balance the equation of vote looting, and your poll has been completely exposed.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
The vicious attack on the Leader of Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, at Chandrakona Road by TMC goons is not just an assault on a leader—it is an attack on democracy itself!

Germany to station liaison officer in India for security

New post to focus on defence ties with Indian Ocean Region as its remit

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

INDIA and Germany's bilateral military ties are on an upswing, and in a significant move to take it forward, India is prepared to host a German liaison officer. The decision holds significance in light of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's meeting on Monday. Chancellor Merz's visit, scheduled for January 12–13, is his first official trip to India since assuming office eight months ago.

"The decision has been taken, and a German Liaison Officer will be joining the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). The documentation is in advanced stages, and the officer will get posted before June." said sources.

The IFC-IOR, established in December 2018, has emerged as a key platform for enhancing safety and security in the IOR. Since it was established, the Centre has hosted International Liaison Officers from 15 countries. It collaborated with 57 maritime security constructs and 25 partner nations.

There have been exchanges at the training front between the two countries. Also, the maritime forces of the two countries have been involved in Passexs (Passage Exercise) and the "The two countries are exploring to deepen the ties," said the source.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his German counterpart Boris Pistorius | FILE PHOTO

Incremental rise in India-Germany military ties

There has been an incremental rise in the military ties and in a significant first, in August 2024, Germany participated in an aerial exercise on Indian soil, with its Eurofighter Typhoon performing air manoeuvres. Incidentally, it was the Indian Air Force's first-ever multinational exercise, Tarang Shakti 24.

The Navy already operates four Shishumar Class diesel-electric attack submarines which were constructed under the technology transfer by Germany. There has been an incremental rise in the military ties. In August 2024, Germany participated in an aerial exercise on Indian soil, with its Eurofighter Typhoon performing air manoeuvres. Incidentally, it was the Indian Air Force's first-ever multinational exercise, Tarang Shakti 24.

As per the sources, a major fillip happened during the four-day bilateral meeting between Rajnath Singh with German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius in New Delhi in June 2023 while the German minister was in India for a four-day visit. During the meeting both ministers had reviewed the ongoing bilateral defence cooperation.

Sangh evolved gradually, but keeps its fundamental character, says RSS chief

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said that the organisation is not changing but "gradually evolving" and "simply unfolding" with time.

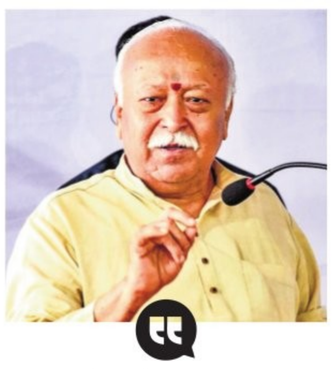
Speaking at a function organised at the RSS headquarters, Keshavkunj, in Delhi, after releasing songs from the film Shatak, made to mark 100 years of the Sangh, Bhagwat said the organisation is evolving into a new form, though people perceive this as change. "The Sangh is celebrating its centenary. But as the organisation evolves and takes on new forms, people say it is changing", Bhagwat asserted.

He noted that the psychology of Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the founder of the RSS, is a subject of research and study.

Bhagwat described Hedgewar as a born patriot with a strong personality and a healthy mind, capable of withstanding even the greatest trauma. He recalled that Hedgewar was just 11 years old when his parents died within hours of each other due to plague. He said Hedgewar had dedicated his life to the service of the nation from childhood, adding that Saheb and the Sangh are synonymous terms.

Bhagwat said that when such a major trauma occurs at a young age, a person can become isolated and prone to adverse effects on their nature and personality, but that this did not happen in Hedgewar's case. "In his personality, there was an ability to withstand even the greatest shocks without letting his faith or his nature waver in the slightest ' a sign of excellent mental health, a strong and healthy mind, which he possessed from the beginning," he said.

The songs of the film "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's 100 Years-Shatak" have been sung by Sukhwinder Singh. It is directed by Ashish Mall and co-produced by Ashish Tiwari.



The Sangh is celebrating its centenary. But as the organisation evolves and takes on new forms, people say it is changing

Mohan Bhagwat, RSS chief

INSIDER TRACK

Third term dilemma for Harivansh

Political corridors in Delhi and Patna are abuzz over the future of Harivansh, the journalist-turned-politician who gained a reputation for effectively handling the Rajya Sabha as Vice-Chairman since 2018. With his second term ending in April 2026, the NDA is weighing its options. A return to the Upper House appears unlikely, as the JDU rarely favours extended tenures. The Bihar Rajya Sabha arithmetic strongly favours the NDA, with four of five seats expected to be secured easily, two of them likely to go to the JDU. This advantage has given Nitish Kumar space to think beyond continuity. Party circles say internal deliberations have already begun on possible successors if change is preferred. Names such as Sanjay Jha and Ramnath Thakur are being discussed. While a third term is not ruled out, the final decision will rest entirely on Nitish Kumar's political judgment.

Reunion watch: Pawar clocks tick fast

Whispers of a Pawar reunion within the NCP are getting harder to ignore. Several rounds of talks between the Ajit Pawar and the Sharad Pawar camps have apparently already taken place. A senior NDA leader from Maharashtra hints that the discussions have gone beyond the exploratory. The buzz is that a clear division of roles has been worked out if the merger happens. Ajit Pawar may take charge of state politics, while Supriya Sule could steer the party nationally. Her past positions on some Modi government initiatives have not gone unnoticed. There is also talk of her possible induction into the Union Cabinet. If the merger clicks, the NDA could gain the backing of eight LS MPs, reshaping equations in Parliament.

Union Budget day: Sunday calls in sick

February 1 is marked on calendars as Budget Day, but this year it falls on a Sunday. It raised early curiosity in Delhi's power circles, even some speculation about a date change, but the word from the top was firm. The Budget will be presented as scheduled. With that, Sunday has quietly been struck off for many. Officials in the Finance Ministry are back to files and figures, showing little surprise, given that preparatory work has already eaten up the weekends. Corporate leaders, too, are adjusting plans, keeping screens and schedules clear. It's all about internalising Budget Sunday as any other work day, regardless of what the calendar says.

The growing eco echo in the PMO

Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary–2 to the PM, is emerging as his boss's most trusted point person on trade and economic matters. In official circles, his grip on files and figures is seen as firmer than most around him. Those tracking developments say his role is set to widen, especially in shaping and coordinating India's economic stance at home and abroad, including key trade negotiations. A former RBI Governor and a 1980-batch IAS officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre, Das has been part of every major economic moment of the past decade. From steering the GST rollout to handling macroeconomic stress during the pandemic, and engaging with global forums like the G20, IMF, and World Bank, his influence has grown quietly but decisively.

Cong calls govt response to bad air quality in cities inadequate and notional

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday cited a report to claim that air quality is a nation-wide, structural crisis for which the government response is "exceedingly ineffective and inadequate", as it demanded a thorough reform of the National Clear Air Programme (NCAP).

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that the NCAP propagated as the National Clear Air Programme is actually another type of NCAP—"Notional Clear Air Programme".

The former environment minister said that a new analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) has now confirmed "what was always India's worst-kept secret that the air quality is a nation-wide, structural crisis for which the government response is exceedingly ineffective and inadequate".

Using satellite data, the study found that nearly 44 per cent of Indian cities that is 1,787 out of 4,041 statutory towns assessed have chronic air pollution, with annual PM2.5 levels consistently exceeding the national standard over five years (2019-2024, excluding 2020), Ramesh said in a statement.

Pointing out that the report also highlighted the ineffectiveness of the National Clear Air Programme, the Congress leader said that despite the scale of the problem (1,787 towns), only 130 cities are covered under the NCAP. Of these 130 cities, 28 still lack Continuous Ambient Air Quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS), he claimed.

Among the 102 cities with monitoring infrastructure, 100 reported PM10 levels of 80 per cent or higher, Ramesh said, adding that in totality, NCAP currently addresses only 4 per cent of India's chronically polluted cities, and asserted that it now needs a thorough overhaul and reform.

Govt ready with 61 changes in MV Act for next session

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has identified at least 61 amendments to the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, which are likely to be introduced in Parliament during the Budget Session, subject to Cabinet approval.

Before Cabinet nod, the proposed revisions will be examined by a sub-committee chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, constituted for this purpose. The amendments covering issues such as decriminalisation of provisions, simplified definitions, emission regulations, and harmonisation with global standards were recently discussed at the annual meeting of transport ministers from all states and Union Territories (UTs) held in New Delhi.

With these changes, the government aims to make certain Central guidelines mandatory for states, to enhance uniformity and enforcement in road safety, vehicle regulation, and transport policy.

"All the proposed amendments were placed before the transport ministers of states and UTs and discussed. Some suggestions have come from them as well as from the secretary, MoRTH," said minister of road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari.

According to the ministry, the amendments are necessary to create a safer and more efficient transport system, address the rising number of road fatalities, update outdated regulations, improve the insurance framework, promote digitalisation for easier compliance, curb alleged corruption through streamlined processes, and regulate new-age players such as cab aggregators.

TOP AMENDMENTS

1. Aimed at enhancing uniformity, enforcement
2. Direct access to officers without approaching court
3. Case closes in 42 days if officials don't take action
4. Provisions to help with ease of doing business

Elaborating on provisions aimed at ease of doing business, Gadkari said the transport sector currently has multiple penalties and fines, and in some cases, criminal laws are invoked. Under the proposed changes, 58 clauses will be removed, and individuals would be able to approach designated officers directly instead of going to court. If a decision is not made within 42 days, the case will be closed.

Sources said the push for amendments also stems from the concurrent nature of motor vehicle legislation, under which both the Centre and states are empowered to legislate.

Solar body likely to miss US counsel, not funds

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE United States' decision to withdraw from the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) is expected to have a limited financial impact on the organisation, but its absence could deprive the alliance of valuable strategic guidance, officials and experts said on Sunday.

Over the past three years, the US has contributed $2.1 million to the ISA—just over one per cent of the total $125 million mobilised by the alliance.

The ISA is a member-driven intergovernmental organisation focused on promoting solar energy deployment and is jointly led by India and France. It currently has 125 member countries. "This year, the US contribution was about USD 1 million, which is quite low compared to the total funding and contributions from other developed countries," a senior government official associated with the ISA said.

"It will not affect our operational activities, particularly capacity-building efforts or the initiation of new projects across member countries," the official added.

Echoing this view, the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) stated that the US withdrawal would not have any immediate operational impact. The ISA, which aims to mobilise $1 trillion in solar investments by 2030, will continue to pursue its core objectives, the ministry said.

The development follows an executive order signed recently by US President Donald Trump, announcing the country's withdrawal from the ISA and 66 other international organisations. The administration described these bodies as "wasteful, ineffective, or harmful" to US national interests, security, and sovereignty.

The US joined the ISA as its 101st member in 2021, when then special presidential envoy for climate John Kerry signed the accession documents and handed them over to India's Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. The US began playing a more active role in the alliance in 2023, including proposing the creation of a separate fund to fast-track renewable energy projects.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy clarified that the alliance will continue to focus on its core objectives, stating that the US decision will not have any immediate effect

US PULLS OUT, NO HARM CAUSED
The US exit from ISA is expected to have negligible financial effect as its contribution is over 1% of the ISA's total funds
Absence of US involvement is likely to result in a loss of strategic guidance
US's withdrawal from multilateral climate agreements raises global concerns as it is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions

Former ISA Director General Ajay Mathur said that while the financial loss would be marginal, the alliance would miss the US's expertise and counsel. "India will not miss the US financially, but it will certainly miss its advice and guidance," Mathur said, adding that the Biden administration had shown serious engagement with the ISA and provided timely strategic inputs.

Based on US recommendations, the ISA established a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) governed by a donors' steering committee. Under this mechanism, up to 8 per cent of funds can be used for administrative expenses, while the remainder is allocated to projects.

"Earlier, contributions went into the general budget, which slowed decision-making because project approvals required clearance from the general assembly, which meets only once a year," Mathur said. "The MDTF has allowed faster implementation, as the steering committee can meet more frequently."

The MDTF aims to mobilise investments, support high-impact solar projects, digitise utilities, and foster innovation across member countries.

27 Indians forced into cyber scam rings in Myanmar land in Delhi

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

A total of 27 Indian nationals trafficked to the Myanmar border with false job promises were rescued and finally repatriated to India on January 10. They were subjected to coercion, physical abuse and forced to work in cyber scam operations.

An official release from the civil aviation ministry said, "The rescued Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi earlier today and are now proceeding onwards to their respective native places to reunite with their families."

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu wrote to External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar about the issue on July 29, 2025, seeking urgent intervention, the release said. The Ministry of External Affairs through the Embassy of India in Yangon and in coordination with concerned authorities, undertook sustained efforts that led to the release of the affected Indians and their safe evacuation to New Delhi, it added.

Those repatriated include: Ramu Gunnugukelli, Sai Kumar Kanakavala, Ajay Dubba, Jagadesh Sahu, Brahmaji Alugolu, Bhuvanesh Gandaboina, Dinesh Gandaboina, and Dhanunjaya Rao Guvvala.

The communication by Naidu to the MEA had specified the names of ten individuals from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who are victims of human trafficking.

"These individuals travelled to Thailand in search of a better livelihood through an agent, only to be transferred to the Myanmar border, where they are being exploited for online scams and subjected to severe mistreatment," it said.

Citing the instance of the agony experienced by Gandaboina Surya Kumari, a resident of YSR Nagar in Andhra Pradesh, Naidu said her sons, Gandaboina Bhuvanesh and Gandaboina went to Thailand along with eight others through an agent there. They were given the designation of Floor Managers in resorts for which they had paid significant commissions.

Trafficked Indian nationals reached Delhi airport late Saturday night | EXPRESS

'Transported to Myanmar border blindfolded'

Citing the agony experienced by Gandaboina Surya Kumari, a resident of Andhra Pradesh, Naidu said her sons went to Thailand along with eight others through an agent there. "On reaching Thailand, the agent took possession of their passports and handed then-over to the Chinese, who then moved them to the Myanmar border while blindfolded."

KHEDKAR HOUSE

The Pune police have launched a probe into former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar's allegations that a house help had rendered her and her parents unconscious and committed theft at their residence, an official says.

3 DEAD AS BIKES COLLIDE HEAD-ON IN UP'S ETAH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	15	Mumbai	29	24
Bhopal	23	09	Panaji	33	22
Jaipur	19	07	Patna	15	09
Amritsar	12	04	Lucknow	16	08
Chennai	27	26	Port Blair	29	24
Kolkata	22	12	Imphal	21	10
Srinagar	07	-3	Chandigarh	14	06

Flag atop Somnath temple symbol of India's strength, declares Modi

Speaking at Swabhiman Parv, Prime Minister calls shrine's 1,000-year history mark of victory

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting following a procession in Gujarat's Somnath on Sunday | PTI

SOMNATH'S thousand-year journey is not a tale of destruction but one of victory, reconstruction and India's unbroken self-pride where invaders faded into history, but faith stood tall by the sea, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the Somnath Swabhiman Parv in Gujarat on Sunday.

Dubbing the Parv "extraordinary in time, atmosphere and purpose," the PM said the celebration was blessed by Lord Mahadev himself "with the ocean's waves, the sun's rays, the echo of mantras and the devotion of countless devotees converging into one civilisational moment."

As Chairman of the Somnath Temple Trust, the Prime Minister said that he considered it his "great fortune" to serve the Swabhiman Parv, noting that the 72-hour uninterrupted Omkar chanting, continuous mantras, a thousand-drone presentation of Somnath's millennium-long saga, and the Shourya Yatra with 108 horses together transformed history into a living experience. "Some experiences," he said, "can only be felt by time itself."

Modi underlined that Somnath Swabhiman Parv embodies "pride and honour, dignity and knowledge, heritage and spirituality," and above all, "the blessings of Lord Mahadev."

He said that the same soil of Prabhas Patan once witnessed ancestors risking their lives for faith. "A thousand years ago, invaders believed they had won," he said, "but today, after a millennium, the flag atop Somnath Mahadev's temple proclaims the strength of Hindustan to the entire creation." "Every particle of this land," he added, "is a witness to valour, courage and sacrifice." Bowing to those who rebuilt Somnath again and again, Modi said, "On this occasion, I first bow to every brave man and woman who gave everything to protect and reconstruct Somnath."

Highlighting the sacred continuum of the site, the Prime Minister said Prabhas Patan is not only Shiva's abode but also sanctified by Lord Krishna, with the Pandavas having performed penance here. He noted the historic coincidence that the thousand-year Swabhiman journey also marks 75 years of Somnath's modern reconstruction in 1951.

Rejecting narratives of defeat, Modi said, "The history of Somnath is not one of destruction or defeat, it is a history of victory and renewal." Drawing parallels between Somnath and India, he said both faced assaults, yet neither was destroyed. "India and its centres of faith are inseparable," he said.

Tracing the timeline from Mahmud of Ghazni's attack in 1026 AD to repeated assaults by Alauddin Khilji, Muzaffar Khan, Sultan Ahmed Shah, Mahmud Begada and Aurangzeb, Modi pointed out that Somnath was rebuilt after every blow from King Kumarapala's restoration to Ahilyabai Holkar's revival.

The PM said those who attacked Somnath misunderstood its essence. "They thought their swords could conquer Somnath," he said, "but 'Som' itself means immortality even after poison." Calling Somnath the abode of Sadashiva Mahadev, both benevolent and fierce, Modi said no force could destroy Shiva's countless forms.

Shah calls Adhikari after 'TMC attack' on convoy, BJP wants police action

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

HOURS after the alleged attack on the convoy of Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, on Saturday night at Chandrakona in West Midnapore district, Union Home Minister Amit Shah contacted him by phone and sought the details of the incident.

According to some BJP insiders close to Suvendu, Shah spoke with the LoP for about 15 minutes when the latter was staging demonstrations in front of the Chandrakona police station and got the details.

The insiders requesting anonymity said that several videos of the incident have already been sent to the Union Home Ministry in Delhi after the talks between Shah and the BJP MLA from Nadigram. The saffron party's West Midnapore unit has called for a protest march at Chandrakona on January 13 where Suvendu is likely to join, the insiders said.

The ruling Trinamool Congress in the state alleged that Suvendu is exaggerating the incident. The LoP sat on a protest inside the Chandrakona police station, demanding registration of an FIR after he alleged that his convoy was attacked by Trinamool Congress workers at West Medinipur on Saturday.

"We are here for justice... The elections aren't far. These people are about to lose. They want to demolish the BJP... TMC Youth Wing president, TMC Labour Union leader... were there... I have given the names of the involved... I am urging that an FIR should be registered, and these people should be arrested...," Suvendu posted on X.

Meanwhile, Adhikari wrote a letter to the CEC Gyanesh Kumar urging him to continue the SIR of poll rolls in Bengal.

One more BLO dies by suicide due to 'SIR workload'

One more BLO died by suicide in West Bengal on Saturday, hardly three days after the death of the seventh BLO was reported on Wednesday. The kin of the deceased—identified as Hamimul Islam, headmaster of a state government-aided secondary school for boys in Paikmarichar under the Ranitala police station limits in Murshidabad district—say he took the extreme step because of excessive SIR-related workload.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

Shah's extended stay at CM's house sparks buzz

Amid the political churn gripping Rajasthan, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's Jaipur visit on Saturday set tongues wagging. Shah spent nearly four hours at the CM residence, an unusually long halt that was underlined in political circles. The stay is being read as an effort to put at rest murmurs of rising anti-incumbency against CM Bhajanlal Sharma. During the meeting, Shah interacted with the CM and several ministers and MLAs. Shah took stock of the government's performance after two years in office and discussed the roadmap ahead. For now, Shah's presence has sent a message: Rajasthan's power dynamics are under close watch.

MP CM steals investor show at Raj DigiFest

At the Rajasthan DigiFest TiE Global Summit in Jaipur, the limelight was stolen by Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav. Even though official sessions had ended, Yadav stayed back for nearly half an hour, holding discreet one-on-one meetings and engaging warmly with foreign investors an effort that did not go unnoticed. His message on cooperative competition, urging states to grow together, went viral and fuelled much chatter in power corridors. Yadav's remark that the summit reflected a shared future for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh was seen as a calculated pitch. While Rajasthan hosted the event, many felt Yadav created the biggest buzz.

Jaipur Audi crash: DCM's son link sparks storm

A late-night Audi crash in Jaipur that killed one person has snowballed into a political controversy. Families of the 18 injured alleged that Deputy CM Premchand Bairwa's son was among the occupants and was escorted away by police. The claim spread rapidly. Police moved swiftly to deny the allegation, stating all four occupants had been identified and none was Bairwa's son. By Saturday evening, Chinmay Bairwa also issued a public denial. Despite this, the controversy persists. Supporters call it a reckless rumour; critics argue there is "no smoke without fire," recalling Chinmay's 2024 brush with headlines for openly flouting traffic rules.

Drugs worth ₹50 crore seized from MP factory

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

THE Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) on Saturday evening busted a synthetic drug unit being operated out of a plant nursery at a farmhouse in western Madhya Pradesh's Agar Malwa district.

The unit, which was manufacturing the synthetic drug MDMA, inside the Teerth Plant Nursery in the Amla area was raided by a CBN-Ujjain unit team led by superintendent Mukesh Khatri. The team seized a total 31.25 kg of mephedrone and other chemicals from the spot, where a full-fledged lab was being illegally run. The seizure is valued at around ₹10 crore in the domestic market, while its worth in the global market could even touch a staggering ₹50 crore.

The team conducted the raid following an intelligence input about a big consignment of MD set to be lifted from there.

Ongoing investigations have thrown up a possible Indore link. The CBN team is now probing how big the drug network is and ascertaining details about the supply chain & key operatives of the racket. While no arrest has been made so far, legal action has been initiated against the nursery's manager.

BJP, Shiv Sena promise ownership to Mumbai tenants on same premises

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE BJP-Shiv Sena alliance on Sunday released its manifesto for the January 15 civic body elections in Mumbai, promising technology-led governance, 50% concession on fares for women in BEST buses and pothole-free roads, among others.

The manifesto has emphasised the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to curb corruption, speed up clearances and improve service delivery. "Our goal is a corruption-free municipal corporation," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, outlining an AI-driven platform to fast-track building approvals and ensure transparency in the real estate sector.

Housing and redevelopment commitments included a 'Pagadimukt Mumbai' initiative to resolve tenancy issues and the promise of occupancy certificates for 20,000 stalled buildings, which the alliance said would benefit lakhs of residents. The Pagadi (colonial era rent agreement) system building will be redeveloped, where the tenant and owner of the buildings will get their share—the tenant will get the house in the same redeveloped buildings.

Fadnavis said the alliance aims to expand the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) fleet from around 5,000 to 10,000 buses, switch to electric vehicles and introduce a 50% concession on fares for women travellers.

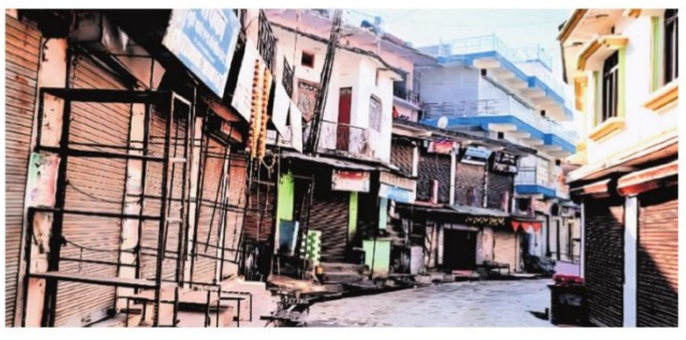
The manifesto stated that if the road width is more than nine metres, it will be concretised. If the width is less, the road will be made of asphalt. This, the manifesto says, will help to make the city roads pothole-free. The Mayayuti alliance promised round-the-clock drinking water supply.

Dharavi Project

On the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, CM Fadnavis said an ecosystem will be created to ensure upgrading of micro businesses in the area. The manifesto also mentioned a "flood-free Mumbai" plan, promising the city would be free from inundation within five years by adopting Japanese techniques & collaborating with institutions.

Call grows for SC-monitored probe in Ankita Bhandari case

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun



Gairsain, Uttarakhand's summer capital, wears a deserted look amid a bandh called for justice in the Ankita Bhandari case | EXPRESS

A state-wide 'bandh' was observed across Uttarakhand on Sunday, called by the Congress and other opposition groups, demanding a CBI probe into the sensational Ankita Bhandari murder case, supervised directly by a Supreme Court judge.

The 'bandh', which marks rising calls for justice in the case, had a significantly wider impact in the hilly, mountainous regions compared to Dehradun and the plains.

In the summer capital region of Gairsain, trade associations and taxi unions actively participated, reinforcing the statewide protest. Leaders from various trade bodies in Gairsain, including Surendra Singh Bisht, Mohan Singh Negi, and Sanjay Pundir, announced the closure of their markets. Taxi services were largely halted across the region in solidarity. Manmohan Parsara, president of the Ramganga Taxi Union in Gairsain, said, "All taxi drivers and owners have backed this shutdown to ensure justice for Ankita."

The core demand remains centered on the victim's parents' insistence that the CBI investigation must be overseen by a Supreme Court Justice, even though the CM had already recommended a CBI inquiry.

Suresh Kumar Bisht, state vice president of the traders' association, urged the traders to support the closure via a video message. The 'Bandh' call had a pronounced effect in Pauri and Srinagar, where markets remained completely closed until noon. In Rudraprayag, the call for justice for resonated strongly. Most establishments in the main market and surrounding towns remained shut as locals and traders united, and traders voluntarily closed shops after 11 AM.

They demanded capital punishment, akin to the perpetrators in the Nirbhaya case. Conversely, the state-wide bandh call in Kotdwar saw a mixed response. The reverberations of the protest were also felt in Tehri district. While some rural markets like Ghuttu, Akhori, and Guler Dougi remained completely shut, the impact in areas like New Tehri town was partial.

Congress, the main opposition party in the state, is saying that even though the three accused have been sentenced to life imprisonment, the name of the 'VIP' who was allegedly pressuring Ankita to provide 'special services' still needs to be revealed.

J'khand plans 10-yr move to solve wildlife conflict

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

The plan seeks to balance conservation with community well-being and promote human-wildlife coexistence

ACTION PLAN FOR JUNGLES

A 5–10 HECTARE rescue centre for 'rogue' jumbos will be set up near Ranchi at the headquarters level

THREE SMALLER ELEPHANT RESCUE CENTRES WILL ALSO BE ESTABLISHED AT CHAIBASA, DUMKA AND PALAMU

The vision plan includes Quick Response Teams with biologists and tranquilizers, deployable across the state

The plan is a 30-point agenda focusing on habitat improvement, forest regeneration and forest-based livelihoods

AMID the rise in the number of elephant attacks, claiming at least 25 lives in the past eleven days across the state, Jharkhand government is preparing a 10-year vision and climate plan to mitigate man-animal conflicts and restore the forest cover, officials said on Sunday.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Sanjeev Kumar said the 'vision plan' seeks to balance ecological conservation with community well-being, offering hope for more harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife. "If everything goes as per the plan, the vision document will be finalised by March 31 and will be implemented from the next financial year," Kumar added.

The comprehensive plan, which deals with a 30-point agenda, aims to address such a problem, improve wildlife habitats, regenerate degraded forests, and promote forest-based livelihoods for local communities, the officials said.

"The 10-year vision plan deals with 30 issues such as regenerating forests, creating forest-based livelihood for local communities, protecting and digitising forest boundaries, improving habitats of animals such as tiger, leopard and bear in the state, rehabilitating mined out areas so that pollution impact could be reduced and drafting a micro plan to improve local climate," he added.

A 'rogue' tusker took the lives of 20 people in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district. The department planned to set up a rescue centre for the 'rogue' elephants, like the one that created trouble in Chaibasa. "For this, we need a land of 5-10 hectares. We are planning to set up the centre in Ranchi, and search for land has already been initiated," Kumar added.

The PCCF said fragmentation of elephant routes has been a concern. "But, we have also observed a change in their food habits, which has become a major reason for conflicts in recent years. The jumbos, which eat Sal leaves, bamboo and 'mahua', are now becoming fond of paddy and potatoes. They are entering farm fields and attacking houses," he said.

Kumar added that all these changes have been observed in the past 25 years. The forest department is contemplating various aspects to deal with elephants' food behavioural change too, he said. "Convincing farmers in elephant-affected areas to change crops for a certain period could be an option, the PCCF said. He said that the elephant corridor identification exercise is also underway in the state. "The exercise will be completed very soon. Thereafter, planning will be made to improve them," Kumar said.

Tejashwi repeats rigging charge, plans to 'expose' Nitish govt after 100 days

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday accused the ruling NDA of turning democracy into "dhan tantra" and "machine tantra", asserting that the people of Bihar, and not his party, lost the assembly elections held last year.

Yadav, who arrived in Patna after his tour of Europe, also said that he has resolved not to speak about the NDA government's functioning for 100 days and observe whether it fulfils the poll promises. The ruling NDA decimated the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan in Bihar in November 2025 to retain power.

"In the elections held last year, people lost, and the system won. These people (NDA leaders) have turned 'loktantra' (democracy) into 'dhan tantra' (rule of money) and 'machine tantra' (rule of government machinery)."

The LoP in the state assembly alleged that a "conspiracy was hatched" and the election was "won through deceit". "Since we practice positive politics, I will not say anything about the decisions and policies of the current government for 100 days. I will see when our mothers and sisters get ₹2 lakh. When will one crore youth get jobs? There was talk of setting up four to five factories in each district. Let's see what happens," Yadav said.

An insult to the public mandate: Chirag hits back

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

UNION minister and LJP (RV) chief Chirag Paswan on Sunday lashed out at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav for claiming that it was the 'system' that won in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections and not the people. Paswan called Tejashwi's claim an insult to the mandate given by the public.

While talking to the press in Patna, Chirag stressed that instead of blaming their poll rout on EVMs or the 'system,' RJD leaders and workers need to introspect and sort out their differences. He asked the RJD leaders to fix responsibility.

20 infants
baptized by Pope Leo in a tradition marking the end of the Christmas season

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Iran threatens US, Israel over strike talk as unrest grows

Protests entered 3rd week with at least 538 dead, as an internet blackout deepens crackdown fears while Washington weighs military options

DUBAI

IRAN's parliament speaker warned Sunday that the US military and Israel would be "legitimate targets" if the US strikes the Islamic Republic over the ongoing protests roiling the country, as threatened by President Donald Trump.

Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf made the threat after nationwide protests challenging Iran's theocracy saw protesters flood the streets in the country's capital and its second-largest city into Sunday morning, crossing the two-week mark. At least 538people have died in violence surrounding the demonstrations, activists said, with fears the death toll is far higher.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult. Those abroad fear the information blackout is emboldening hard-liners within Iran's security services to launch a bloody crackdown.

Trump offered support for the protesters, saying on social media that "Iran is looking at freedom, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!" *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, citing anonymous US officials, said on Saturday night that Trump had been given military options for a strike on Iran, but hadn't made a final decision.

Iranian state television broadcast the parliament session live. Qalibaf, a hard-liner who has run for the presidency in the past, gave a speech applauding police and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, particularly its all-volunteer Basij, for having "stood firm" during the protests.

He went on to directly threaten Israel, "the occupied territory" as he referred to it, and the US military, possibly with a preemptive strike. "In the event of an attack on Iran, both the occupied territory and all American military centers, bases and ships in the region will be our legitimate targets," Qalibaf said. "We do not consider ourselves limited to reacting after the action and will act based on any objective signs of a threat." Lawmakers rushed the dais in the Iranian parliament, shouting: "Death to America!"

It remains unclear just how serious Iran is about launching a strike, particularly after its air defenses were destroyed during the 12-day war in June with Israel. Any decision to go to war would rest with Iran's 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The US military has said in the Mideast it is "postured with forces that span the full range of combat capability to defend our forces, our partners and allies and US interests." Iran targeted US forces at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar back in June, while the US Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet is stationed in the island kingdom of Bahrain. *AP*

Protesters dancing and cheering around a bonfire as they take to the streets despite an intensifying crackdown in Tehran, Iran | AP

Shah's son emerges as key voice in Iran protests

Reza Pahlavi, the son of Iran's last shah, has emerged as a prominent voice urging protesters staging the country's biggest demonstrations in years. In a nation where opposition to nearly five decades of clerical rule has long been fragmented, the 65-year-old has sought to project himself as a national leader from exile in the United States. In messages sent from abroad, he has praised Iranians demanding change and called for an end to repression, *Reuters* reported.

FILE: A team of experts from the Indian Army constructed the bridge in a day despite adverse weather conditions

First Bailey Bridge built with India's aid opens for traffic

COLOMBO

THE first Bailey Bridge built with India's assistance package to Sri Lanka was opened for traffic in the cyclone-hit island nation on Sunday. The Indian mission here said that the 100-ft Bailey bridge was constructed by the Indian Army, restoring a vital road link between the Central Province and Uva Province.

"Restoring connectivity - the first Bailey Bridge under Indian Assistance Package for Post-Ditwah Reconstruction opened for traffic," the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said in a post on X. The bridge was inaugurated by the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha, along with Deputy Minister of Transport Prasanna Gunasena and Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education Madhura Senevirathne.

It was built under a USD 450 million reconstruction package by India to Sri Lanka, which was hit by Cyclone Ditwah in November, causing widespread flooding and landslides, resulting in over 600 deaths. The package was announced during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Sri Lanka. It includes USD 350 million in concessional Lines of Credit and USD 100 million in grants. India launched 'Operation Sagar Bandhu on November 28 to provide relief and recovery assistance to Sri Lanka. *PTI*

Trump tells Cuba to 'make a deal' or face consequences

DEIR AL BALAH

US President Donald Trump urged Cuba on Sunday to "make a deal" or face unspecified consequences, warning that the flow of Venezuelan oil and money to Havana would now stop.

The communist-run island near Florida has been a US foe and ally of Caracas for decades, but Trump has ramped up his threatening language in recent days -- particularly after Washington toppled Venezuela's leftist leader Nicolas Maduro.

"There will be no more oil or money going to Cuba - zero!" Trump said on his Truth Social platform. "I strongly suggest they make a deal, before it is too late." Trump provided no details about what potential deal he referred to, or what such an arrangement would achieve. His remarks come a week after US forces seized Venezuela's authoritarian leader Maduro in a nighttime operation in Caracas that killed dozens of Venezuelan and Cuban security forces. A week ago, Trump stated that "Cuba is ready to fall," noting that the island's economic crisis was worsening and that it would be difficult for Havana to "hold out" without receiving heavily subsidized Venezuelan oil. *AFP*

US strikes Islamic State sites in Syria in retaliatory raids

WASHINGTON

THE US has launched another round of retaliatory strikes against the Islamic State group in Syria following last month's ambush that killed two U.S. soldiers and one American civilian interpreter in the country.

The large-scale strikes, conducted by the US alongside partner forces, occurred around 12.30 pm ET Saturday, according to the US Central Command. The strikes hit multiple IS targets across Syria. The Jordanian military later announced it had taken part in the strikes.

Saturday's strikes are part of a broader operation that is part of President Donald Trump's response to the deadly IS attack that killed Sgt Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, Sgt William Nathaniel Howard, and Ayad Mansoor Sakat, the civilian interpreter, in Palmyra last month.

"Our message remains strong: if you harm our warfighters, we will find you and kill you anywhere in the world, no matter how hard you try to evade justice," US Central Command said in a statement Saturday.

A day earlier, Syrian officials said their security forces had arrested the military leader of IS operations in the Levant.

The US military said Saturday's strikes were carried out alongside partner forces without specifying which forces had taken part. The Trump administration is calling the response to the Palmyra attacks Operation Hawkeye Strike. Both Torres-Tovar and Howard were members of the Iowa National Guard. It launched Dec. 19 with another large-scale strike that hit 70 targets across central Syria that had IS infrastructure and weapons.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces has for years been the US's main partner in the fight against IS in Syria, but since the ouster of former Syrian President Bashar Assad in December 2024, Washington has increasingly been coordinating with the central government in Damascus.

Syria recently joined the global coalition against the IS.

Israeli police detain top Netanyahu aide over military leak investigation

DEIR AL BALAH

ISRAELI police said Sunday they detained a senior aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suspected of obstructing an investigation, with local media reporting that it was tied to leaks of military information during the Gaza war.

Police did not name the individual, but Israeli media reported it was Tzachi Braverman, Netanyahu's current chief of staff, who is designated to be Israel's next ambassador to the UK. "This morning, a senior official in the prime minister's office was detained for questioning... on suspicion of obstructing an investigation," the police said. "The suspect... is currently being questioned under caution."

Former Netanyahu aide Eli Feldstein recently alleged that Braverman tried to obstruct an investigation into a leak of sensitive military information to the foreign press during the war against Hamas in Gaza.

In September 2024, Feldstein leaked a classified document from the Israeli military to the German tabloid Bild, for which he was later arrested and indicted. The document aimed to prove that Hamas was not interested in a ceasefire deal, and to support Netanyahu's claim that the hostages captured by Palestinian militants in their October 7, 2023 assault on Israel could only be released through military pressure instead of negotiations.

Meanwhile, Hamas said Sunday it will dissolve its existing government in Gaza once a Palestinian technocratic leadership committee takes over the territory, as mandated under the US-brokered peace plan. But the group gave no specifics on when the change will occur.

Hamas and the rival Palestinian Authority, the Palestinians' internationally recognised representative, have not announced the names of the technocrats, who are not supposed to be politically affiliated, and it remains unclear if they will be cleared by Israel and the US. Palestinian health officials said Sunday that Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian man in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, an incident the Israeli military said it was reviewing. The health ministry in Ramallah said the Palestinian body that coordinates with Israeli authorities had informed it that Israeli fire had killed Shaker Falah Ahmad al-Jaabari, 58, on Saturday evening. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Kurdish fighters evacuated from Aleppo

ALEPPO: Kurdish fighters were evacuated from Aleppo's Sheikh Maqsoud neighbourhood on Sunday under a ceasefire agreement after days of intense clashes with Syrian government forces, officials said. Buses transported about 360 fighters to Syrian Democratic Forces-controlled areas in northeastern Syria. The fighting, the worst since the fall of Bashar Assad in December 2024, killed at least 22 people and displaced more than 140,000. Drone strikes were reported over Aleppo during the clashes, prompting authorities to suspend civilian flights. US special envoy Tom Barrack urged all sides to cease hostilities and return to dialogue.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 31.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.30 AM), for recovery of Rs. 1,06,82,99,867.68/-** as on **07.01.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) M/S POLYBOND ORGANICS PVT LTD "Narang Chambers"** Unit No.4 & 5, 4th Floor Corp No.2/15 & 16 Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore-560002. **(2) Mr. Dinesh V Baliga,** No.1268, II Stage, BTM Layout, Bangalore-560076. **(3) Mr. Balakrishna V Baliga,** No.35, Sneha, 4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076. **(4) Mr. Harish V Baliga,** No.1267,Gururaj,I Main, BTM Layout II Stage, Bangalore 560076. **(5) Mr. Jagadish V Baliga,** No.35, Sneha, 4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076. **(6) Mrs. Divya Baliga,** No.35, Sneha,4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076. **(7) Mr. N V Pavan Ram,** No.35, Sneha, 4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **30.01.2026 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	Commercial Apartment consisting of unit No.4, 4th Floor Sub No.2/15 in the building known as "Narang Chambers" with PID No.45-47-2/15 Situated at property No.2/3. Ward No.47, Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore-560002, measuring super built up area of 415 sq ft with undivided share of 89.52 sq ft and flat bounded on North by : Narasimharaja Road, South by: Common passage, East by : Unit sub numbered 2/16 and West by : Unit sub numbered 2/14 and site bounded at : North by : Narasimharaja Road, South by: Conservancy Lane, East by: Private properly and West by : Kumbaragundi property. **Coordinates of the property Latitude - 12.9635787, Longitude - 77.5843143**	₹. 27.00	₹. 2.70	₹. 1.00
	Commercial Apartment consisting of unit No.5. 4th floor Sub No.2/16 in the building known as "Narang Chambers" Situated at property No.2/3, Ward No.47 Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore - 560002 measuring super built up area of 965 sq ft with undivided share of 203.78 sq ft and flat bounded on : North by : Narasimharaja Road, South by : Unit sub numbered as 2/17, East by: Private Property and West by : Unit sub numbered 2/15 and Site, bounded at : North by: Narasimharaja Road, South by : Conservancy Lane, East by : Private property and West by: Kumbaragundi property. **Coordinates of the property Latitude - 12.9635787, Longitude - 77.5843143**	₹. 64.00	₹. 6.40	₹. 1.00
	TOTAL	₹. 91.00	₹. 9.10	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080-25310066, 8598009010 and 9483544116 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 08.01.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is represented to my client that **Mr. L Manjunath** S/o T K Lakshman is holding a mining lease bearing ML No.2632 for China Clay and Fire Clay minerals in Survey No. 108 and 109 of Gollu Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapur Taluk. It is notified to the General Public that pursuant to the said representation given by **Mr. L Manjunath,** my client is desirous of having long term business association. Any person/s or organization having any objection, claim, right or interest of any sort in any manner whatsoever pertaining to ML No.2632 held by **Mr. L Manjunath,** are notified to submit their claim in writing to the undersigned within **15 days** alongwith documentary proof if any, indefault my client shall presume that there is no objection from any person whatsoever and proceed to enter into long term business association bonafidely.

K. Dhiraj Kumar, Advocate
"Pitru Chaya" No.804/A, 61st Cross,
5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010
Phone: 9845255692

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that **Mr. Manjunath. K** S/o Kalashanaiah, Aged About 35 Residing at No. 954, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Kempegowdanagara, Byadarahalli, Bangalore-560091 is the absolute owner of 'schedule' described property.

We are informed that the original Gift Deed dated 14-01-2000 registered as document No.10616/1999-2000, executed by Sri C Nanjegowda in favour of Chandrakala the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Pertaining to the Schedule Property is Lost/Misplaced, In this Connection an E-Complaint has been Lodged on 08-01-2026 at Bangalore City Bearing serial No: 2000132/2026.

Therefore, if any person has any information or claim to prove that the above referred GIFT deed is lodged with him/some other person in connection with a legal transaction, such person may file in writing the information or his objections or claims, with all supporting documentary evidence.

If any claim or objection is not received by registered post, by the undersigned, ***within 7 days*** from the date of publication of this notice, our Client will proceed to complete the transaction assuming the statements of owners to be true.

Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by our Client.

SCHEDULE:

All that piece and parcel of **property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No.31,** Gram Thana Khata No-21, measuring **East** to **West 38+28/2 Feet** and **North to South 40 Feet** Along With House in Formed By Survey No-10/1 Situated At **Kodigehalli Grama panchayat, Hosahalli Gollarapalya Village, Yashawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** and bounded as follows: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Same Property No. 31 in Name of Premakumar, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No-30.

USHA K P, Advocate
Nanasu Associates, No.122/B, 1st Floor, Haumanthanagar, Bangalore-560 019 Mob: 8105094459
Bangalore Date: 12-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my client **SMT. MARY JANNITA**, Wife of Sri. Venkatesh has lost the original of Sale deed dated 26.06.2014 executed by Smt. Kempamma in favour of Sri. Abhilash Reddy.C. which is registered as document No.5206/2014-15 of Book-I and stored in CD No.BNSD319 in the office of Sub-registrar, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru and Original of Sale deed dated 14.08.2014 executed by Sri.Abhilash Reddy.C in favour of M/s Cybele Infrastructure Private Limited, which is registered as document No.7861/2014-15 of Book-I and stored in CD No.BNSD326 in the office of Sub-registrar, Banaswadi, Bengaluru both in respect of Site No.3, formed in property Assessment No.127/2, Old No.127, situated at **Kithaganur Village**, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, old Bengaluru South Taluk about some months ago in transit. In case the same are traced by anybody they should hand over the same to the undersigned and also in case anybody is having any claim, charge or interest over the said property, they shall lodge their objections with the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice.

D.S. BHAT, Advocate,
M/S BHAT ASSOCIATES,
1st Main, 5th Cross, Yeshwanthpur,
BENGALURU - 560 022. **Mob:9916994581**
BENGALURU, DATE : 10.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Sri. Krishna Murlidhar Naik intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule below from Sri. K.S. Kaushik and Sri. B.C. Shiva Kumar.

Any person(s) having any claim, right, title, interest, or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, mortgage, charge, gift, lease, inheritance, lien, trust, or any other encumbrance are hereby required to make the same known in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within 10 (ten) days from the date of this publication.

If no objections are received within the stipulated period, it shall be deemed that no such claims exist, and my client shall proceed with the purchase of the property.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Apartment No. G-03, Ground Floor, "HI-TECH CITADEL PHASE-1", 15th Main Road, 19th B Cross, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru - 560061. Super Built-up Area: 1,358 sq. ft., with an undivided share of 451 sq. ft.

Prathap Kumar M S
72/253, 9th main, Srinivasa Nagar,
Bengaluru - 50 Ph:+91 94839 90915
Place: Bengaluru Date : 12/01/2026

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL, AT BANGALORE

G and WC No. 1/2026

BETWEEN : JUBIN THOMAS ...Petitioner
AND : TINU ANN SHIBU ...Respondent
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT

To: Mrs. Tinu Ann Shibu, aged 33 years W/o Mr. Jubin Thomas, B 617, Brigade Buena Vista Apartment Phase-2, Old Madras Road, Budigere Cross, Bangalore - 560049.

Whereas, the above-named Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 25 & 26 of the guardian and wards act, 1890 seeking the relief of directing the respondent to hand over the custody of the child / ward - Miss. Jennifer Jubin Thomas, born on 13.11.2019, who is now aged 6 years 1 month to the petitioner on every weekend (from Friday 6pm to till Sunday 6pm) and also to direct the respondent to hand over the custody of the child during every school vacation by allowing the child to spend the school vacations with petitioner father and to grant such other relief/s as this Hon'ble Court deems fit to grant in the circumstances of the case, in the interests of justice and equity.

You are hereby summoned to appear in person or through a pleader duly instructed before I Additional Senior Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural, Bengaluru.

Take notice that in default of your appearance, **on 28/02/2026 at 11.00 AM,** the petition will be heard and determined in your absence, placing you as ex-parte.

Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on this 9th day of January 2026.

By order of the Court, CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural Dist., Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner : **Shri Stanley Sam**
No. 17, 18, 2nd Floor, View Point
M Gandhi Nagar, Marathahalli PO,
Bengaluru-560037.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH:17) AT BENGALURU

LAC. No. 125/2020

PETITIONERS/CLAIMANT:
SMT. GANGAMMA
V/s
RESPONDENT : S.L.A.O. K.H.B
NOTICE/SUMMONS TO CLAIMANTS No. 1 U/o. 5 Rule 20 R/W Sec:151 OF CPC

CLAIMANT No. 1 : SMT. GANGAMMA, W/o. Revanna, aged about 55 years, R/at. Chunchanakuppe Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-562130.

Whereas the Respondent / KHB has made to refer the land acquisition Case to this Hon'ble Court U/S 77(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 (RFCTLARR New Act-2013) acquiring the land in respect of Sy.No.25/5C, measuring 0-06 acre situated at Chunchanakuppe Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Tq., Bangalore Urban District. Vide Govt. Declaration No: RD:204, Bhu.Swa. Be-2012, Dated: 27.11.2012 & award amount of Rs. 19,04,245/= vide cheque bearing No:919032, Dt:12.08.2020, drawn on Corporation Bank of India, S.C. Road Branch, Bengaluru has been deposited in the Fixed Deposit before this Hon'ble Court. You are hereby informed to appear before this Court, **on 03.02.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** in person or through advocate to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the LAC petition will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

Given under my hand & seal of the Court, this 03.12.2025.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Respondent / KHB :
K.R. MANJUNATHA, Advocate
KAR/766/03
No.7, "SHIVASRI NILAYA", Basaveswara Layout, Naghashettyhalli Main Road, RMV Post, Bengaluru-560094.
Mob : 9916222468 / 7899389110
Email : krmanjunatha61@gmail.com

ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LTD (APIIC)
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
APIIC The Future is Here www.apiic.in

'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST'
FOR DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
READY BUILD FACTORY (RBF) SHEDS
AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

APIIC intends to identify suitable Developers for allotment of land for **Development of Ready Build Factory (RBF) Sheds** at **100 locations** in Andhra Pradesh. The developers shall be responsible for development, operation and maintenance of the RBF sheds. APIIC shall handover the encumbrance free possession of land to the Developer and procure external infrastructure upto the boundary of the Project site. Interested Applicants are invited to join Pre-EoI conference scheduled at date and time mentioned in the EOI document available at https://apiic.in/downloads-tenders/. Interested Applicants shall submit their EOI Applications on or before **06-02-2025** in the format prescribed in the EOI document.

Sd/- Managing Director, APIIC Ltd.

For inquiries and clarifications related to this EoI, please reach out to investments-ap@apiic.in

SIDDAGANGA URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
S.H.S.Building, B.H.Road, Tumakuru – 572 102, Tel: 0816 – 2277267
Fax: 0816 - 2277267, email: sucb95@gmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Under Rule 8(1) for Immovable Properties]

No.SUCB/SARF/LO – 290

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Siddaganga Urban Co–operative Bank Ltd., Doddaballapura Branch,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **29.08.2025** calling upon the borrower/mortgagor, **Shri Kaushal Gupta A. S.,**S/o Shri Sridhar A. L., No.8/659, "Madhu Krupa" Vannigarapete, Near Rangappa Circle, 8th Ward, Doddaballapura Town, Bengaluru Rural District -561203 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.70,92,858/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Eight Only) as on 25.08.2025** and future interest at contractual rate from **26.08.2025** togetherwith incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrower/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount in full as mentioned in the demand notice, notice is hereby given to Borrower/ Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned have taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on **06.01.2026.**

The Borrower/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with these below mentioned immovable properties and any dealings with the said immovable properties will be subject to the charge of the **Siddaganga Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.,** for an amount of **Rs 73,43,075/-** (Rupees Seventy Three Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seventy FiveOnly) as on **05.01.2026** and future interest at contractual rate from **06.01.2026** togetherwith incidental expenses thereon.

The Borrower/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

SCHEDULE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTIES : (Description of Property)
All that piece and parcel of the property situated at:

Item No.1: Bangalore Rural Dist. Doddaballapura Town, ward No.8, Thigalerbhagaythu Village, back side of the Venkataramanaswamy Temple, bearing Doddaballapur Corporation, PID No.8-2-514-1A, property No old 72/6, measuring 505.85 square metres and standing in the name of Shri Kaushal Guptha AS vide Sale Deed dated 17.09.2021 registered as Document No.DBP-1-06044/2021-22 and stored in CD No. DBPD1128 on17.09.2021 at SRO Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on: East by : Road and property PID 8-2-514-1, West by : Property PID 8-2-514-1B, North by : Property PID 8-2-515-8A, South by: Property PID 8-2-514-1C.

Item No.2: Bangalore Rural Dist., Doddaballapura Town, ward No.8, back side of the Venkataramanaswamy Temple, and Doddaballapur Corporation bearing Khata No.1860/1033,PID No.8-2-514-1D,Property No.1860/1033/923, old No, 923/3609, measuring East to West 12.80M North to South 3.65M total 46.82Sq metres and Standing in the name of Shri Kaushal Guptha A S vide Sale Deed dated 24.01.2022 registered as Document No. DBP-1-11555/2021-22 and stored in CD No. DBPD1221 on 27.01.2022 at SRO Doddaballapura,Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on : East by : Road, West by: property PID 8-2-514-1A, North by : Road, South by : property PID 8-2-514-1C.

Sd/-Authorised Officer
Siddaganga Urban Co- Operative Bank Ltd.,
Tumakuru
Place: ***Doddaballapura,***
Date : 06.01.2026

All the news.
In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
/thenewindianxpress
@newindianxpress
+The New Indian Express
GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

QuoteExpress **WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS** › GORDON B HINCKLEY

₹2,000 CR worth initial public offerings (by 6 companies) to hit primary market in the week starting Jan 12, as per the exchange filings by the companies

FIIs continue to dump domestic equities

Better domestic fundamentals, hopes of healthy earnings season fail to lift market; DIIs remain net buyer

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

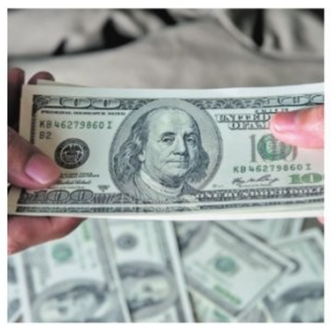
FOREIGN institutional investors (FIIs) continue to dump Indian equities despite improvement in domestic fundamentals and expectations of a healthy earnings season as corporates are all set to announce their December quarter (Q3FY26) performance.

The total FII selling (cash market) through January 9 stood at ₹11,784 crore. The market sentiments have turned so weak that despite domestic institutional investors' (DII) buying ₹17,900 crore in January. Nifty fell by 618 points in the week ending January 9.

"FII investment in early 2026 has begun with the continuation of trend of the previous year," said VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Investments. He added, "At the beginning of 2026 the expectation was that FIIs will turn buyers on improvement in GDP growth and corporate earnings." In 2025 FIIs had net sold equity worth ₹166,283 crore, the highest annual outflow ever recorded in the Indian capital market. The selling impacted the performance of the market and also weakened the rupee by about 5%.

Stating the reason for such an extensive outflow, Vijayakumar said the market expectation was that the much-delayed US-India treaty would materialise early in the year. But geopolitical developments took a turn for the worse with the US intervention in Venezuela and the absence of positive developments in the trade talks.

"Some negative comments from the US commerce secretary gave the impression that



the trade agreement will be further delayed. This impacted the market sentiments and FIIs continued selling in the last two trading days. It appears that if FIIs are to turn buyers in India, sentiments have to improve with positive developments on US-India trade pact and uptick in earnings growth," he added.

BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50 extended losses for the fifth straight session on Friday (Jan 9) amid concerns over potential new US tariffs, FII outflows, geopolitical tensions, and caution ahead of Q3FY26 earnings. During the week, Nifty crashed 618.35 points (2.35%) and Sensex erased 2,111 points (2.46%). This is the biggest weekly fall for the frontline indices in more than 3 months.

Nifty smallcap and midcap indices fell about 3% each this week, showing weakness in the broader equity market. Ravi Singh, chief research officer from Master Capital Services said the recent market weakness can largely be attributed to four key factors. Firstly, global sentiment turned cautious after the US President approved a bipartisan Russian sanctions bill, paving way for tariffs up to 500% on buyers of Russian energy products. Secondly, lingering uncertainty surrounding the US–India trade deal continued to dampen investor confidence, as markets remain watchful for concrete progress. Thirdly, hopes of mixed Q3 earnings, and lastly sustained FIIs selloff, added Singh.

The main focus this week will be the third-quarter earnings with heavyweight IT companies such as HCL Tech, TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Wipro all set to announce their Q3 earnings. Index heavyweight Reliance Industries would announce Q3 results on Friday (January 16). Globally, markets will keenly watch developments around the US Supreme Court verdict on the legality of Trump tariffs.

IN CONVERSATION

MANOJ KUMAR AGARWAL
Chairman and managing director, Bharat Coking Coal

'Fund from IPO will help BCCL diversify into rare earth metals'

MINIRATNA Bharat Coking Coal, the largest miner of coking coal and a subsidiary of national miner Coal India, whose IPO was fully subscribed within hours of opening on January 9, thanks to the reasonable pricing for the ₹1,071 crore issue. This is the first of the eight subsidiaries that will hit the market this year and the rest by 2030 as the government seeks to monetise large coal assets. In an interview, the company's chairman and MD **Manoj Kumar Agarwal** tells **Benn Kochuveedan** that Bharat Coking with the commissioning of its largest Block E located in the Jharia coalfields in the Dhanbad district of Jharkhand, their annual output will go up by 15 million tonne. Exdited Excerpts:

Apart from being the largest miner of coking coal with nearly 60% of the market share, what makes Bharat Coking Coal a unique company for an investor...
This listing is aimed at discovering our real value. It's better for us as a company and for parent Coal India and now for the investor to understand the real value of what we produce, which is primarily coking coal. Though we will continue to remain a Coal India subsidiary post-issue, the fund from the IPO will be deployed to get into the rare earth metals and solar power sector. The government was looking to diversifying into these sectors as part of a strategic pivot to a sustainable energy provider and attain the goals of mineral self-reliance. Coal India has already secured the preferred bidder status for a few critical mineral blocks, including a graphite block in MP and an exploration licence for rare earth elements in Andhra in partnerships with state-owned Indian Rare Earths, to identify and develop rare earth and beach sand minerals. The focus is on minerals essential for clean energy like batteries, solar panels, and mining of lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite, in addition to rare earths.

CIL has already secured preferred bidder status for a few critical mineral blocks, including a graphite block in MP and an exploration licence for rare earth elements in Andhra in partnerships with state-owned Indian Rare Earths

How do you look at the pricing and margins given supply constraints due to excess monsoons in earlier this fiscal? What is the demand outlook?
Yes, last year our mines had the heaviest rainfalls in the past 50 years—from an average of 1,700 mm annually to over 2,200 mm, leading to a steep fall in output. Another reason was the decline in e-auctions. We don't have much control over pricing as domestic coal and coking coal prices are benchmarked to international prices, primarily Australian prices. For domestic sales to the power and cement sectors, it is at the notified price. So, effectively we have no control on prices.

What is your capital expenditure plan?
Each year, we need ₹1,000 crore of capex, and this remains more or less the same for considerable future.

What is the production target by 2030 and what's your total identified reserves now?
We're commissioning the first phase of our E block next fiscal and on full opening our annual output will jump by 15 MT, taking total to 54-55 MT. And this will be our largest expansion ever. This block has over 300 mt in reserves. Our total reserves are a little over 7.9 billion tonne, and we can keep on mining for at least 100 years.

With the monsoons over, do you think production will match the last year's level by March?
Yes, production has already improved and we're confident of delivering more than we'd done last fiscal when it was 40.5 mt.

Who are your largest consumers, moving towards electric blast furnaces, how do you look at your future demand?
I don't think there will be any reduction in demand from blast furnaces fired by coking coal in any foreseeable future. Because to have electric furnaces, we need to use more scrap steel in steel making but we don't have enough scrap metals and so our coking coal-fired blast furnaces will continue to be the main steelmaking method.

MONEY-WISE

FORECASTS ACROSS THE ASSET CLASSES

FINANCIAL ADVICE
ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at
ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

IN the last decade when I still used to do television shows, I once suggested to the Channel Head that getting 'expert' guests to discuss which of their forecasts for the year turned out right and which did not, might be interesting. His candid response was that it would be a sure-fire way to scare off guests on his channel.

I was and still am willing to Walk the Talk and so, here's what I said in 2025 with what happened in Reality (*highlighted in Italics*) …

The most popular asset class in India, even today remains debt. With the increase in bank interest rates in recent times, the traditional avenue of bank fixed deposits has witnessed a revival of sorts and fixed income investors have rushed in to lock in high interest yielding deposits for longer tenures.

There is also concern among these investors that at some point, interest rate cuts will commence and trigger a sharp fall in bank interest rates. (*FD interest rates have dropped as anticipated*). That bank interest rates are a function of the inflation rate and it is important always to look at interest rates as net of inflation is often missed by investors.

Debt mutual funds whose USP was its tax arbitrage over its alternatives took a hard blow in the last Union Budget which withdrew its tax advantage. Simply put, the mutual fund industry will need to recalibrate to make their debt mutual fund holdings more palatable to investors. (*The Mutual Fund industry has developed quasi-debt offerings with equity tax benefits for investors who hold these units for a minimum of 24 months*). Even the insurance industry took a beating in the earlier Budget when its tax free tag for premium payments in excess of ₹2.5 lakh, was withdrawn. There is also a plethora of traditional savings offerings from the government, albeit with investment caps which still remain popular among investors.

Yet another popular sub-asset class in India especially, is Gold. With gold prices rising to new highs, there are concerns

of it entering a price bubble territory. However, the ongoing hostilities in some parts of the world as well as aggressive posturing by nations with powerful armies, ensures that gold as the asset class of last recourse remains in demand. (*This forecast played out most accurately as two more wars broke out during the year and the US dollar weakened. It is worth noting here that four of the six nations involved in these war-theatres have proven nuclear capability.*)

In the next column, we will look at the remaining viewpoints and forecasts which I presented in my column at the start of 2025 and how they actually played out during the year. These include Crypto-Currencies which remained volatile and Indian Equities that finally took a pause after a uni-directional 3-4 year run.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO MANAGE TRAVEL AND YOUR MONEY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE
RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

HUMAN desires take over once your basic needs are met. If you discuss managing your money with someone elderly or well-read, they will emphasize the importance of understanding the difference between your wants and needs. As you make a financial plan for the year ahead, travel expenses dominate your budget. No matter your life stage, travel plays a significant role in your pursuit of happiness.

Amanpreet Singh Bajaj, country manager for India and Southeast Asia at Airbnb, posted an interesting LinkedIn post. He put out some data to conclude that culture is now the trip. According to Airbnb's travel insights, 62% of Gen Z in India (ages 13-29) plan to travel to concerts and music festivals in 2026. About 40% are willing to travel internationally to watch their favorite artists perform. There is a lot of intent in the approach to travel.

A comprehensive survey on travel, published by Google, a global tech giant, and Kantar, a market research firm, on India, reveals that Indian travellers increasingly view exploration as a necessity rather than a luxury; their spending habits are shifting in ways with significant implications for personal finance and budgeting. In the years after the pandemic, people began to embrace the maxim 'life is short' and to explore the purpose of travel. That actually meant you started spending more for experience than price. Not just that, travellers in India are spending more on comfort too. The Google-Kantar survey finds that 33% of travelers prefer business class over economy and 45% prioritize luxury accommodations. That is also reflected in the share price of Indian Hotels, the Tata Group company that owns and manages luxury hotels. Over the past five years, the share price has jumped 4.5 times. That shows investors' confidence in the prospects for luxury hotel spending.

The change in attitude is also influencing travel budgets. Many of those in the 13-29 category are influencing even family travel decisions. They rely on online research and align their travel with key events. These could be sports, music, or adventure events. That means travel budgets are witnessing a significant surge, too. The survey findings can also be compared to the rise in personal loans. The Reserve Bank of India publishes the data every week. There has been a sharp surge in credit card and personal loans over the past five years. There was a time when the RBI intervened to slow down the rise in unsecured personal loans. Since then, the momentum has slowed, but Indian banks never had such a good run with borrowers. The salaried are happy to swipe their credit cards and borrow to spend on travel. Prospects are better ahead if you believe the Google-Kantar survey findings.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

You need to plan for your dream travel. There are various tools that you could use to save and invest money regularly to achieve your objectives of a 'momentication'. There is no need to suppress your desires or your pursuit of happiness. With proper management of your personal finances, you can ensure you have money available when you need it. In the year ahead, you may want to engage a professional financial advisor. You can allocate funds to a mix of asset classes, such as fixed-income mutual funds or fixed deposits, for your holiday.

The idea is to keep borrowing at a minimum. You do not have to plan a vacation by running to a bank for a loan. Similarly, use your credit cards wisely to earn crucial points or miles for use during your travel. Most credit cards also provide travel insurance with your annual fees and other concierge facilities. When it comes to travel, thoughtful financial planning can go a long way in making your holiday memorable.

Customs amnesty scheme on the anvil

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE Budget 2026 can introduce Customs amnesty scheme and calibrated input duty corrections that could help exporters, especially small and medium enterprises to navigate through the challenges arising in global trade set-up, said experts.

"In a weak global trade cycle, efficiency gains—not fiscal spending—are India's strongest export stimulus. Calibrated input duty corrections, faster duty remissions, and logistics cost neutralisation can enhance export competitiveness without straining the fiscal balance," said Adarsh Somani, Partner, Economic Laws Practice.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier indicated that the next big reform will be bringing a complete overhaul of Customs as the whole Customs structure needs

to be simplified. She said bringing more transparency and more ease to the Customs regime will be the next focus. Currently, several export-oriented manufacturers often struggle with inverted duty structures that raise their costs and hurt competitiveness. At a tumultuous time when exporters have been burdened with heavy tariffs, enhancing competitiveness and minimising cost are the most sought-after demands from the small and medium exporters.

Experts suggest Budget 2026 can further rationalise Customs duties by lowering tariffs on raw materials and correcting distortions in sectors like electronics, textiles, and chemicals, some of which have faced a tariff of 50% from the US.

"End use-based exemptions may be brought in to ensure benefits are passed on to targeted businesses. Additionally, streamlining of remaining eight tariff slabs, in continuation to the previous Budget, is expected to streamline the Customs structure," said Krishan Arora, Partner and Indirect Tax Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat. Experts suggest a Customs amnesty scheme be considered by the government to resolve ₹1.5 lakh crore locked in disputes at various levels, which has grown multifold over the past a few years. This will free up business capital locked-in in disputes.

Tax experts suggest expanding digitalisation and having faceless assessments will help cut clearance delays, ensure uniform treatment across ports and faster assessment processes.

Vibrant Gujarat sees huge investment commitments, RIL to invest ₹7L crore

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

THE Vibrant Gujarat Saurashtra Kutch Regional Conference in Rajkot saw announcements of industrial estates and drew blockbuster investment commitments from the country's biggest business leaders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurating the summit, on Saturday unveiled a major industrial expansion road map for Saurashtra and Kutch. Total 13 new smart GIDC estates spread over 3,540 acres were announced across seven districts of the Saurashtra–Kutch belt, including Jamnagar, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Kutch, Morbi and Surendranagar, a move aimed at converting local potential into global-scale performance.

Opening his address, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani said Prime Minister Modi's prayer at Somnath generates "positive vibrations" for the nation. Calling it a moment of pride to see Vibrant Gujarat move beyond Gandhinagar after 20 years.

We are setting up a data centre in Jamnagar. Jio will launch People First Intelligence Platform, ensuring that every citizen can access AI in their own language

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, RIL

Ambani said Reliance, already the largest investor in Gujarat with investments worth ₹3.5 lakh crore, will double its investment to ₹7 lakh crore within five years,.

Echoing this confidence, Karan Adani of the Adani Group said India's forward momentum is firmly anchored in PM Modi's leadership. Adani said Mundra is the Group's karmabhumi and India's solar manufacturing nerve centre. He said the Group is building the world's largest energy park in Mundra, a massive 37-gigawatt project, and committed an investment of ₹1.5 lakh crore in Kutch–Mundra over the next five years.

Wesley So takes blitz crown in Tata Steel Chess meet

American Grandmaster Wesley So clinched the title in the Open category with a round to spare, while India's Nihal Sarin ended as runner-up in the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz chess tournament in Kolkata on Sunday. The Women's section also ended with a playoff that saw another American Carissa Yip hold her nerve to lift the trophy.

Anchor innings: Kohli stands tall again

Star batter keeps up good form with a match-winning 93 before Rahul takes India home in chase of 301 vs NZ

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

IT now seems like a million miles away but when Virat Kohli began the final chapter of life as an Indian cricketer — a one format only player — he couldn't make a run. His first two innings, both on difficult surfaces in the series in Australia in October saw him return scores of 0 and 0.

In the now fast-changing world of Indian cricket, it was somehow proof of waning powers. Would he face constant scrutiny, every failure a referendum? Even if Ajit Agarkar had said it would be silly to put them on trial whenever he (and Rohit Sharma) came out to bat, there was an undercurrent of tension.

So much so that when Kohli got off the mark in the third ODI in Australia, he had the widest of grins, an acknowledgement of sorts that life can sometimes get hard for the owner of 81 international 100s.

It's now safe to call off the search, bring the dogs back and consider the case closed. That minor blip in Australia was just that — a random statistical quirk. A glitch in the matrix.

India's Virat Kohli in action against New Zealand in Vadodara on Sunday | AFP

On Sunday, at the new Kotambi in Vadodara — incidentally the first time the men's team was playing in the city since 2010 — the 37-year-old once again showed how he has continued to evolve as a batter, especially in this format. When his work for the night was done, New Zealand had already faced the full extent of this version of Kohli, the fun, hedonist who would happily dance down the wicket twice in the opening exchanges to set the tone.

It's something he did to devastating effect as four of his first six scoring shots went for boundaries. Granted, the Black Caps had a few bowlers very inexperienced at this level but the Kohli had made a similar start against the visiting South Africans last month.

This is all part of a rejigged batting philosophy that Kohli has seemingly decided to employ. A graphic put out by the host broadcaster told its own story. In ODIs from January 2023 to October 2025, the No. 3 liked to take his time, get his eye in, assess conditions and the bowlers before exploding (a strike rate in the high 70s). The run down to third man, nudge to mid-wicket were his shots after coming in.

These days, they are one of many options. A strike rate over 90 in the first 10 balls. On Sunday, it was 100. It never dipped below that mark as after that rapid start and with the target in check, he began to marmalise the largely unthreatening bowling.

While he has retained the ability to do this match after match and year after year, what he seems to have added to his bow, even this late in his career, is the capacity to reinvent his game. Sure, he fell seven short of what would have been a record-extending 54th ODI 100 but his second wind has already turned into a menacing storm for opposition bowlers.

There were some hiccups once he departed but the calm KL Rahul, at No. 6, guided the hosts home with six balls and four wickets to spare. Washington Sundar, who was there at the end, had picked up an injury so it will be interesting to see if the all-rounder recovers in time for the second ODI, scheduled to be held in Rajkot on Wednesday. Shreyas Iyer, who came back post his spleen injury in Australia, posted a stylish 47-ball 49. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 300/8 in 50 ovs (Conway 56, Nicolls 62, Mitchell 84; Siraj 2/40, Rana 2/65, Krishna 2/60) **lost to** India 306/6 in 49 ovs (Sharma 26, Gill 56, Kohli 93, Shreyas 49, Rahul 29 n.o, Rana 29; Jamieson 4/41).

Jurel in for Pant

Dhruv Jurel replaced an injured Rishabh Pant in India's ODI squad for the entirety of the ODI series against New Zealand. Pant suffered a side strain while batting in the nets on Saturday.

Soorma Hockey Club's Vincent Vanasch (R) during the ongoing HIL | HI

Veteran Vanasch hopes to inspire next generation

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

DON'T be surprised if Vincent Vanasch gets into coaching. The world-class custodian, part of the Soorma Hockey Club, is keen on sharing his experiences and help the up-and-coming talents in Belgium. Currently, he runs an academy named 'The Wall' in Brussels, which trains young goalkeepers. "I love the game and the tactics. With the academy, I want to share my experience with the young kids, because in the past, the goalie's position was not so important. I think we could change that considering the penalty shootouts and penalty corners," Vanasch, whose career has seen global gold at multiple events, said in a virtual interaction on Sunday.

For someone who has seen Belgian hockey grow from its nascent stage in the mid-to-late 2000s, Vanasch felt that the up-and-coming talents need to learn how to get past obstacles. "I want to show the kids that we have to work hard, be resilient and get that perseverance to get over some obstacles in your life. It was never easy in my career to get that spot. It was not easy to keep it. When you are out there, you are a bit vulnerable and everyone is looking at you," said the 2018 World Cup-winning hero.

Most of the values he goes by may have been inculcated from his time at the youth academy of the Royal Evere White Star HC, started by his father Jean. The youth academy, Vanasch says, was created at a time when most hockey clubs were not professional.

"My brothers, my sister and I were playing there. The club knows its values. The players there don't play on the highest level of the league, but they know who they are and they know the nature of the club. So the club does not want to make massive investment in money. They just want to keep their values and they try to create new players. After I stop playing for the national team, I will go back there not playing in the goal, I think, but playing as a striker to score some goals," he said with a chuckle.

The upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup in Belgium-Netherlands later this year could be his last in the competition. He expressed excitement over playing in front of the home crowd. "As a goalie, I'm really pleased that I have been consistent for so many years. I've played four Olympics cycles which is quite special. I almost have 300 caps, which is beautiful. My love for the game is intact at the moment. And we have a fantastic year coming with the World Cup at home. I know what it is to play there. We played the two European Cups and it was special. We have a certain pride in wearing the national team shirt (...)."

Sunday's results: HIL GC 1-1 Vedanta Kalinga Lancers - Lancers won 3-1 on penalties; Ranchi Royals 4-1 Shrachi Bengal Tigers.

Vijay Hazare: Mumbai face Karnataka battle

AGENCIES @ Bengaluru

SARFARAZ Khan and Devdutt Padikkal will be hoping to continue their good form when domestic heavyweights Mumbai and Karnataka meet in the Vijay Hazare Trophy quarterfinals here on Monday.

The second quarterfinal between Uttar Pradesh and Saurashtra will also be held at the Centre of Excellence on Monday. Karnataka's solitary loss in the group stage came in their final league game on January 8 but they would be confident of bringing their A game to the fore against Mumbai. With 640 runs in seven innings, including four hundreds and a half century, Padikkal is the tournament's leading run-getter. If he continues to be a run machine, it would be tough for the selectors to ignore him as they look towards the 2027 ODI World Cup after the T20 showpiece is out of the way in a couple of months' time.

Sarfaraz too is knocking on the doors by extending his sensational T20 form to one-day cricket. In the unexpected loss against Punjab in the final league fixture, Sarfaraz smashed the fasted fifty by an Indian in men's List A cricket. Though Mumbai lost, it was yet another reminder from Sarfaraz to the selectors of his special abilities. In the other quarterfinal between Saurashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the latter will be the favourites. **Monday's quarterfinal fixtures:** Karnataka vs Mumbai; Uttar Pradesh vs Saurshtra.

Devine intervention behind GG win

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IT was a day that belonged to Sophie Devine. First, she smashed a superb 95 off 42 balls to help Gujarat Giants post a competitive score against Delhi Capitals in the Women's Premier League in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. Later, she delivered with the ball when her team needed it the most by producing a spectacular last over that saw her pick up two big wickets and concede just two runs.

Thanks to opener Devine's 95, which included as many as eight maximums, Gujarat finished with a total of 209 in 20 overs. Even though Gujarat lost their way in the final overs, thanks to Nandani Sharma, who picked up a hat-trick in the 20th over, it was still a big total for Delhi to chase.

Lizelle Lee (86 off 54 balls) provided Delhi a bright start before Laura Wolvaardt (77 off 38) took over. Wolvaardt kept the scoreboard ticking after Lee's dismissal and Delhi were well within sight of victory. Wolvaardt, towards the closing stages, hit all over the park to put the pressure on Gujarat. When Delhi scored 22 runs off the 19th over, it seemed like they were in pole position to emerge victors. They needed just seven off the last over. That's when Devine intervened to help Gujarat pull off a memorable four-run win. **Brief scores:** Gujarat 209 in 20 ovs (Devine 95, Gardner 49; Nandani 5/33) **bt** Delhi 205/5 in 20 ovs (Lee 86, Wolvaardt 77; Devine 2/21).

Sophie Devine hit 95 off 42 balls against Delhi Capitals on Sunday | WPL

EXPRESS READ

Sabalenka, Medvedev capture top honours

BRISBANE: Aryna Sabalenka warmed up for a tilt at a third Australian open title in four years in ominous fashion by winning her second successive Brisbane International crown on Sunday. Sabalenka, who's ranked World No 1, scored a dominant 6-4, 6-3 victory over Marta Kostyuk in just 78 minutes. In the men's section, Daniil Medvedev beat Brandon Nakashima 6-2, 7-6(1) to win a 22nd ATP title.

WTT Feeder Series: Manush, Ryu triumph

VADODARA: Top seed and local favourite Manush Shah and Korea Republic's Ryu Hanna registered contrasting victories to clinch the men's and women's singles titles respectively in the WTT Feeder Series 2026 here on Sunday. Manush rallied to beat Payas Jain 7-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 11-8 to clinch the men's singles crown. In the women's final, Ryu ended the dream run of qualifier Anusha 11-6, 11-6, 11-5.

Top int'l runners for Mumbai Marathon

MUMBAI: A rich field of elite athletes, led by last edition's runner-up Merhawi Kesete of Eritrea in the men's section and Ethiopia's Medina Deme Armino in the women's field, will compete in the Tata Mumbai Marathon on January 18. The marathon, which is into its 21st year, will offer a prize money of $50,000, $25,000 and $15,000 to the first three finishers in the men's and women's categories.

Senior basketball nat'ls: Double joy for Railways

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

INDIAN Railways basketball teams have rounded off their dominating show in the senior national basketball meet by winning both the men and women's finals here.

They successfully defended the women's title, beating Kerala in the final (75-66). The men's team, meanwhile, beat defending champions Tamil Nadu in a rather close match (77-69). India captain Palpreet Singh Brar was key in Railways beating the hosts. He came up with decisive blocks in the fourth quarter — where Tamil Nadu tried to get back into the game. He also proved his mettle by being an able shooter, making two out of three three-point shots.

Railways men's team beat Tamil Nadu in the summit match on Sunday

Salah on the scoresheet as Egypt beat Ivory Coast

AGENCIES @ Agadir (Morocco)

MOHAMED Salah scored as Egypt won 3-2 to dump defending champions Ivory Coast out of the Africa Cup of Nations in a thrilling quarterfinal on Saturday. Omar Marmoush and Ramy Rabia netted for Egypt, then Ahmed Aboul-Fetouh conceded an own goal before halftime. Salah then edged closer to a first Africa Cup of Nations winners medal by doubling the lead soon after the break before Guela Doue pulled a goal back for Ivory Coast, but it wasn't enough for the holders.

Egypt will face Senegal on Wednesday in Tangiers with the winners meeting hosts Morocco or Nigeria four days later in the final. "I'm so happy with this win and reaching the semi-finals," said Salah. "I am proud to wear the Egyptian national jersey and all the players know the responsibility that comes with it." Egypt coach Hossam Hassan thanked his players, calling them "true Egyptians who fight for the happiness of their people". **Results:** Egypt **3-2** Ivory Coast; Algeria **0-2** Nigeria.

Egypt's Mohamed Salah (R) scores against Ivory Coast on Saturday | AP

Arsenal through, United lose

PORTSMOUTH: Gabriel Martinelli shrugged off the backlash to his clash with stricken Liverpool defender Conor Bradley to send Arsenal into the fourth round of the FA Cup with a 4-1 win at Portsmouth. Manchester United slumped to another defeat, this time in the third round of the FA Cup at home to Brighton, with the latter winning 2-1. The loss means the famous club will surely end the season without a title.

BIG INFLUENCE

Really hope we appreciate Rabada more: Former SA pacer Donald

GOMESH S @ Cape Town

FORMER South African pacer Allan Donald feels the cricketing fraternity must enjoy watching KG Rabada more while they can, especially at a time when franchise leagues are dominating the calendar.

Rabada, one of the top all-format bowlers in the world, has already carved a place for himself in the list of fast bowling legends from the Rainbow Nation. The 30-year-old has already joined the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Pat Cummins in terms of leaving behind a legacy.

At a time when the landscape of the sport is changing exponentially with T20 leagues around the globe, Donald feels that being an all-format bowler going forward will be a challenge. He took the example of Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf playing franchise leagues and not Test cricket. "Are we going to see that a lot more? Players need to look after not only their mental health, but also physical. And that's probably why a guy like Rauf has decided 'enough's enough. I'm going to need to look after my body'. So it's sad in a way. I think we'll see it (more). We must enjoy KG Rabada while we still can. We really do. We saw Nqobani Mokoena here and he's the next in line. But I think probably we will see a little bit more of that (T20 cricket)," Donald said on the sidelines of the SA20 game between Paarl Royals and Pretoria Capitals.

KG Rabada has been instrumental for South Africa across formats | SA20

The former pacer explained the challenges of switching formats for bowlers. "We are up from four-day stuff. It's a different mindset, it's a different load in overs, then, all of a sudden, you hit T20 again in a completely different mindset back into 50-over stuff. Players do it worldwide now. It's who do you have in your dressing room to look after and it's also a mental and a skill switch. It's never easy. We only played Test match cricket and 50-over cricket and it was an easy adaptation. But to come from just hopping around and going from one league to another league back into a Test series, it's not an easy thing to do," said Donald.

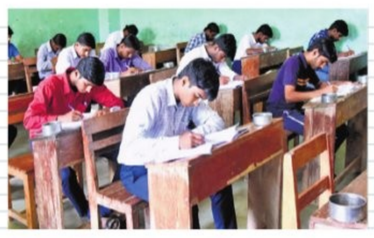
The Proteas legend joked that he is thankful about retiring without having to bowl in T20s on Indian pitches. He felt South Africa have a good team to go all the way in the upcoming T20 World Cup. "It's going to be a heck of a tournament, isn't it? I know South Africa picked a very strong squad. There might always be question marks about who's not going and who should have gone but I think South Africa's got a very good team. I think India have got the best T20 wickets on the planet. I think it's just so hard for any bowler and I've seen it in the IPL. I mean, who scores 124 in a power play? I'm just glad I'm retired and commenting on it every now and again.

That's just where the skill of batting has gone. If you can win the inches from a bowling point of view and plot your way very carefully and smartly, I think it's going to come down to that again. I hope to see South Africa hopefully, in the final as well," he signed off.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
12.01.2026

EDUCATION EXPRESS
edex YOUR LIFE COACH

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS



REET (MAINS)	UCEED 2026	AISSEE 2026
Date: Jan 17, 2026	Date: Jan 18, 2026	Date: Jan 18, 2026

edex LIVE.com | newindianexpress.com

The pressure map

Most young people carry more than one kind of pressure at a time. These are the areas that most often add weight.

ACADEMICS AND PERFORMANCE	FUTURE AND CAREER UNCERTAINTY	HOME CLIMATE	MONEY AND STABILITY	BELONGING AND RELATIONSHIPS	BODY IMAGE AND IDENTITY	DIGITAL LIFE	TRANSITIONS AND CHANGE
Exams, grades, coaching pace, entrance tests, fear of falling behind	Course choices, job market anxiety, internships, "what next" pressure	Conflict, criticism, high expectations, lack of emotional safety at home	Fees, household strain, insecure work at home, status anxiety, neighbourhood stress	Friend group shifts, exclusion, bullying, romance stress, constant social evaluation	Looks, weight, skin, fitness, identity questions, pressure to "fit in"	Notifications, comparison loops, FOMO, online drama, always being reachable	New school, new city, college entry, first job, family illness, bereavement

MYTHS YOUR MIND FEEDS YOU UNDER PRESSURE

MYTH
If the setup is right, the habit needs less effort. Let the environment do half the work to reduce friction and increase follow-through.
REALITY

Everyone else is coping better than me, somehow	Most people hide the messy parts, so comparison is based on incomplete information
If I rest, I am falling behind; I should keep pushing	Rest restores focus and mood, so skipping it often makes work slower and heavier
I should handle this alone; asking is weakness	Stress shrinks problem-solving, so talking early usually makes pressure easier to manage
After this exam, life will finally feel easier again	Relief is brief if the stack stays, so systems and boundaries matter beyond one milestone
If I am stressed, it proves I am doing enough today	Help is a skill, not a verdict, and early support prevents stress from compounding
Feeling bad means I am failing at life right now	Effort matters, but overload reduces quality, so smart pacing beats constant intensity

THE SOCIAL STRESS LOOP

Social stress often feels hard to escape because one uncomfortable moment can trigger reactions that unintentionally set up the next one

SOCIAL TRIGGER
Exclusion, teasing, bullying, comparison, mixed signals, or sudden distance.

SELF-DOUBT SPIKE
Thoughts turn inward: "What did I do?", "What's wrong with me?", "Am I enough?"

EMOTIONAL FLARE
Shame, anxiety, anger, or numbness rises, often faster than it can be explained.

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOUR
Withdrawal, over-pleasing, checking, overperforming, sarcasm, or acting unfazed.

MISREAD BY OTHERS
The behaviour gets labelled as attitude, drama, coldness, clinginess, or ego.

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES
Distance grows, conflict escalates, trust weakens, and the next trigger arrives sooner.

PSYCHOLOGIST AND AUTHOR AARTI C RAJARATNAM TELLS NIKHIL ABHISHEK HOW YOUTH STRESS BUILDS THROUGH STACKED PRESSURES, CONSTANT ALERTNESS, AND LOW DOWNTIME, UNTIL SETBACKS FEEL DECISIVE

STACKED ODDS, STRETCHED MINDS: THE NEW BASELINE?

Dr Aarti C Rajaratnam

IN today's world, a student or young professional can do everything right and still feel the body bracing for impact. For many of them, stress no longer arrives as a sharp moment. It settles in the background and stays there. It accumulates, interacts, and amplifies itself until the load feels continuous. There is always another test or meeting to prepare for, a message to reply to, a family expectation to manage, a future to worry about, and a feed that never stops refreshing. While nothing is catastrophic, the pressure behaves like a setting.

This is the stress stack — pressures that would be manageable alone, piling up and feeding off one another. When the stack gets tall enough, the body stays braced even on ordinary days. This can dull enthusiasm, shape choices, and alter even simple routines like sleeping, eating, or showing up for class or work.

Psychologist and bestselling author Aarti C Rajaratnam, who has worked closely with adolescents and young adults for over two decades, regularly watches this pattern play out across individuals who appear to have very different lives on the outside and yet describe a similar sense of heaviness.

She begins by restoring the word "stress" to its proper scale and drawing a line between pressure that motivates and pressure that corrodes.

"For any organism to survive, you need what is called eustress, which is true stress," she says. Eustress, in her explanation, is the workable tension that keeps an organism alert, engaged, and capable of responding to the world. The goal, she emphasises, should not be a stress-free life.

Her analogy is disarmingly ordinary: "It's like flying a kite. If you just let the manja (kite string) go, then it's going to fall. If you hold it too tight, it's going to get cut off."

> *When you are successful, take it to your heart, enjoy it and focus on your next goal. When you fail at something, take it to your head, look at the method, see what you need to change.*
>
> Dr Aarti C Rajaratnam, psychologist

In other words, one needs the right tension, held at the right level, for the right task, for the right amount of time. The skill lies in modulating the pull and holding tension without turning it into a chokehold.

The trouble starts when the string is pulled from too many directions at once. Academics, career uncertainty, comparison, and home dynamics overlap, then compound. A small hurdle can feel turbulent because the system was already close to its limit.

Screens then act like an amplifier. Discomfort is met with instant distraction, so the muscles of self-soothing (the ability to settle discomfort from the inside, without needing external aid) do not get exercised. Rajaratnam also highlights the "imaginary audience" effect in the age of reels and livestreams, where people feel watched even when nobody is watching. Life starts to feel performative, and stress can turn into an identity that gets rehearsed online instead of resolved. Once stress becomes background noise, loops form quickly. A young person may start believing they cannot cope, and the belief can begin to drive behaviour in that direction. "In psychology, the technical term for that is a self-fulfilling prophecy," she explains.

Stress often moves in stages, from manageable spikes to a phase where the mind feels unsettled even without a clear stressor, before showing up in the body and, eventually, in disengagement. What stands out, she notes, is how quickly that disengagement can arrive. A few weeks of constant pressure can tip some young people into abrupt shutdown, especially when they keep consuming stress content, self-diagnosing, and staying on alert. Recovery is usually the first casualty. In this context, recovery means giving the mind and body real off-time, where stress hormones settle and you are not on alert for the next demand. When asked how to reset one's mental state to baseline, Rajaratnam points to good sleep as the most basic tool for the purpose.

In simple terms, deep sleep is when the brain does its cleanup and reset work. When that reset keeps getting cut short, the stress-response system stays "hot" for longer, which makes ordinary pressures feel sharper, emotions harder to regulate, and rumination easier to slip into.

Finally comes the sense of finality, especially among young adults, where life feels as though it narrows too early and every outcome closes off future possibilities. That high-stakes feeling comes from living in a world that treats every grade, interview, or mistake as a verdict, and a culture that rewards doing more than being.

"There are two states of a human: the being state and the doing state," Rajaratnam explains. "If it fees like one's worth comes only from doing, then every result feels decisive."

In that climate, small setbacks can feel permanent because they seem to threaten belonging itself. Her reframe is blunt, practical, and brings the focus back to the response: "Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional."

Understanding the mechanisms of stress matters because it changes where blame lands. Once you can see what is piling up and feeding on itself, the question shifts from "What is wrong with me?" to "What am I responding to?"

And that is where clearer choices begin.

WHAT YOUTH CAN DO THIS WEEK

Small changes reduce load faster than big promises, so here are five low-friction moves you can use immediately if you've been feeling stressed

[✓] Lower the stakes on performance for one week
Pick a single process goal you can control in study or work, treat outcomes as data, and give yourself permission to learn without grading yourself.

[✓] Set one simple screen boundary at home
Choose a short, shared no-phone window with whoever you live with, and keep that time protected for rest, focus, or real conversation.

[✓] Give yourself a fixed stop-time
Fix a realistic sleep cut-off on three nights, reduce one late-night trigger, and let your brain and body reset instead of stretching the day.

[✓] Ask for support early, not after overload
Send one message to someone you trust naming what feels heavy, and ask for a small check-in or presence while you begin a task.

[✓] Remove one avoidable source of pressure
Pause an optional commitment, mute a comparison-heavy feed, or delay one non-urgent decision, and use the freed time for recovery.

Why young worked-up professionals crack

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

For young professionals, burnout is about the weight of constant mental switching, missed deadlines, and heavy cognitive loads

EVEN before Shree Shetty gets out of bed, the day's to-do list starts vying for her attention. Her barely-awake mind is already juggling what needs to be cooked, her schedule, and pending tasks from previous days. Together, these thoughts cause her to begin her day tired and anxious.

A young digital marketing professional, Shree's mind keeps switching as she moves frequently between professional and personal roles. While the act of switching is invisible and barely perceptible, it leaves her feeling uneasy. "Every time it happens, I feel like I'm neglecting something on the other side," she admits.

Thoughts of unfinished tasks resurface when she is focused on other tasks, leading to self-doubt. Over time, Shree has learnt to recognise this pattern. "I try my best to close as many loops as possible, and switch to simpler tasks so that I don't get stuck," she says.

This relentless tussle leaves her mentally cluttered, physically drained, and emotionally depleted by the end of the day. While she once attributed this to pressure, she now also recognises the role of health conditions.

PCOS and thyroid issues, for instance, are additional causes of stress for women. "Most women you talk to daily are not completely themselves due to constant hormonal fluctuations," she says. Shree is often overwhelmed. While some of it comes from her responsibilities, she admits some is self-induced. "We live with the constant feeling of being outperformed by someone else, possibly because the internet always shows us people doing a hundred times better than us.

So, we set unrealistic expectations for ourselves, and end up feeling overwhelmed because of that," she says.

Micro-stress to Meltdown

Repeated micro-stresses can stack over days and weeks, eventually leading to shifts first in focus, then energy, emotions, and finally behaviour

1 Background buzz
Focus slips more easily than usual, and rest stops feeling fully restorative. You may feel mildly on edge, with a low-level urge to stay busy or distracted, and you start reaching for your phone more often in quiet moments

2 Compression
Small tasks begin to feel heavier, and starting becomes harder than continuing. Tiredness shows up earlier in the day, patience thins, and you begin avoiding minor responsibilities, even while thinking about them constantly.

3 Cognitive drag
Thinking slows and forgetfulness rises, with more "brain fog" and second-guessing. Motivation dips, worry loops get louder, and you pull back from optional activities, social plans, or anything that requires extra effort.

4 Spillover
Conversations and instructions take more effort to track, and sleep either breaks or stops helping. Emotions swing between irritability and numbness, and everyday frictions feel larger, so conflicts rise or avoidance becomes the default.

5 Tipping point
Concentration collapses, and the body either shuts down or becomes agitated. You may blank out, panic, cry, or go flat, and responsibilities drop suddenly because capacity has been exceeded rather than because you "didn't try."

Read the signal, not the attitude

Before stress becomes a breakdown, it often disguises itself as habits people judge, so here is a quick translator for what you might be seeing

What it looks like	What it may signal
Sudden irritability or snapping	Threat response, low emotional bandwidth, or constant pressure with no recovery time
Withdrawing from people or group chats	Fear of judgement, feeling left out already, or wanting safety while emotions settle
Procrastination or "can't start" inertia	Cognitive overload, perfection pressure, or difficulty choosing a first step when stakes feel high.
Overworking and compulsive checking	Control-seeking under uncertainty, fear of making mistakes, or a belief that rest must be earned
Silence in class, meetings, or at home	Shutdown from overwhelm, fear of saying the wrong thing, or a habit of staying invisible to avoid conflict
People-pleasing and instant agreeing	Rejection anxiety, conflict avoidance, or a need to stay "safe" in relationships
Risky choices or sudden rule-breaking	Escape-seeking, pressure to fit in, or using intensity to interrupt numbness or stress
Drop in care for routines and basics	Energy collapse, sleep debt, or feeling stuck in a loop where effort no longer feels worth it

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

READSHAREFOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
12•01•2026
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Marvel founded

Timely Comics was founded by Martin Goodman on this day in 1939. In the 1960s it was changed to Marvel Comics under Timely publications

BREAKTHROUGH

One of Timely's first superheroes, the Human Torch and the Sub-Mariner, were pitted against each other, a first for comics

FACE-OFF

The Human Torch and the Sub-Mariner fighting was a radical concept that placed Timely firmly on the map, and pumped up the sales

EVOLUTION

The company evolved through imprints like Atlas Comics before rebranding as Marvel Comics that introduced characters like Spider-Man

Here's what's happening in ooru!

PG 2

'I WAS CARRYING THE BURDEN OF MY SURNAME'

Post his show in B'luru, singer SP Charan speaks on the pride and pressure of carrying his father and late legend SP Balasubrahmanyam's legacy, singing in rare unison with him and more

ANJALI RAM

EVEN as *Alaipayuthey* completes 25 years of its release, *Kadhal Sadugudu*, one of the romantic tracks from the film, rendered in the voice of singer **SP Charan**, continues to feel as fresh as ever. With the same familiarity and a wide smile on his face, akin to his late father and legendary singer SP Balasubrahmanyam, Charan walked into the hall and settled on a couch to speak to *CE* at his recently held 'An Evening to Remember – Evergreen SPB' charity concert honouring the late singer, who passed away in 2020. With maternal roots in ooru, Charan spent most of his childhood summers travelling with cousins and soaking in the greener, quieter city. "Those days, the city was pleasant, with not much traffic. We used to visit the Symphony Theatre on MG Road to watch movies," he shares.

Notably, Charan's musical journey has been anything but linear. Though his father's music had its share of influence, he admits that growing up, Western pop held greater sway in his life. "In our generation, we had Michael Jackson, Wham! and Janet Jackson. That music was the go-to when you hung out with friends. Indian music was always present, but often in the background," the 54-year-old singer explains.

It was only after moving to the US that nostalgia quietly reoriented his listening, leading him to discover the music that has always been beside him all along. "That missing-home aspect crept in. Albums like Ilaiyaraaja's How To Name It? and Nothing But Wind became my warm blanket," he notes.

Ironically, it was a friend who wasn't musically trained who truly opened his ears to his father's genius. "That's when I started listening to it intricately. Until then, he was just Appa," he says, adding, "You don't realise he's a legend when he's your dad." After listening to SPB's craft, life wasn't the same for Charan, as he notes that there was no going back from it. Among his most cherished experiences with his dad is the song *Ayyayo* from *Aadukalam*, a film that won six awards at the 58th National Film Awards, sung separately by the father-son duo. "Initially, I didn't understand the concept," Charan laughs, adding, "I didn't want to overdub Appa's voice and I was sceptical because this had never been done before. But once I heard the song, I decided to just go with the flow. If you listen to it carefully, there are places where we sing it differently. But, in the end, it turned out into a beautiful blend, and for that I'm truly grateful to GV Prakash (music director) and Vetrimaaran (director)."

Carrying a legendary surname, however, hasn't always been easy for Charan. "I was carrying that burden for quite some time," he confesses. The pressure even made him forget the joy of music. "Later, I realised that if I truly wanted to be sincere, I needed to start enjoying his music first. Today, I enjoy singing my appa's songs more than my own. As long as my appa's fans are happy, I'm happy."

The shift came when he returned to his father's simple advice to focus on one's own work. "He always advised me to be true, honest and do my best. He never kept me away from cinema or production; instead, he kept reminding me to be sincere in whatever I do and not dilly-dally. Success or failure didn't matter to him. He would say, 'I'm there for you'," Charan fondly remembers, adding, "Sincerity, he taught me, isn't something that you achieve in a day, it's something you have to work on every day."

Talking further, he comments on today's fast-paced, algorithm-driven music industry, calling it a mere evolution. "The audience is getting younger. Their attention span is very short; even a 10-second reel feels too long today. Music has become more tone-oriented than melody or lyrics, but trends change and I believe it will eventually return to melodies and meaning. Sometimes it can feel jarring, but then you play an Ilaiyaraaja or an SPB song and you're refreshed again," he signs off with a smile.

Father-son duo SP Charan and SP Balasubrahmanyam during one of their shows

CE explores how Ota Tokyo 2026 at Palace Grounds brought anime, cosplay and unfiltered fan energy to the city

Alter egos unleashed

BENGALURU hit pause on reality and pressed play on anime at the recently held Ota Tokyo 2026, as fans showed up as heroes, villains and everything in between, stepping into bold alter egos with poses sharper and confidence sky-high. What unfolded was a burst of pure cosplay joy, where dressing up was the whole point. The event also featured popular Cosplay duo Mioshi and Mamemayo, Naruto singer Diana Garnet, Manga creator Kobayashi and other fun elements, including Japanese-inspired food stalls and a 'maid cafe'.

PICS: KEVIN NASHON

Another Time, Another Place

Bestselling author Amitav Ghosh was in the city on Friday for the launch of his latest, *Ghost Eye*, which follows the story of a girl who remembers a past life in the Sundarbans

Writers Amitav Ghosh and Anjum Hasan at the city launch of *Ghost Eye* at BIC

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

Just a year after his last book, *Wild Fictions: Essays*, came out, Jnanpith Award-winning author Amitav Ghosh has returned with what his fans have missed for the last few years: a novel. The Bengaluru launch of *Ghost Eye* was evidence of this, with the auditorium at Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur on Friday, packed with those eager to hear Ghosh and writer Anjum Hasan, unpack the nitty-gritties of the book, which follows the story of a three-year-old Marwadi girl in 1960s Calcutta. Despite being raised in a strictly vegetarian household, she suddenly asks to be fed fish, remembering a past life spent in the Sundarbans. Simultaneously, readers follow her nephew in Brooklyn, in the midst of a pandemic, trying to understand the events of his aunt's childhood better.

"I find the scholarship on reincarnation absolutely fascinating because there's just so much of it – from India, Burma, the US, even in communities that don't recognise the phenomenon. The moment one such case exists, it shows you that the world is not what the materialist, mechanistic worldview tells us…there is so much that we don't know about," he said.

When an audience member later pointed out that the author seems to be gravitating towards mysticism compared to his roots in historical fiction, Ghosh responded with a laugh, "But my book is not about mysticism, it's about food!" Food, particularly people's relationship with it and the environment that provides it, is a big part of the book as Ghosh had expanded upon earlier, saying, "How is the cook or the fisher woman thinking about the products of the land and what is the nature of their intimacy with those products, as opposed to the scientist's? An ichthyologist, if they see a whole fish, might be able to tell you the difference [between two species], but they would not be able to by tasting them. I find that very interesting. How do we really distinguish between these forms of knowledge?"

Ghosh was recently in the news for being chosen by the Future Library Project, an initiative by artist Katie Paterson, which collects an original manuscript each year by a popular writer which will remain unread until the year 2114. Margaret Atwood, Ocean Vuong and Han Kang are among those who have contributed. "People say that in the modern world, we think in cycles of four or five years, corresponding to the electoral cycle, whereas our ancestors thought in terms of at least 100 years. [I wanted to know], what it would be like to think of one's own work within that century-long time horizon? Now that I've been trying for the last four months, it's incredibly difficult. The first inclination is to write something speculative, but the world will be so profoundly changed in 80 years that whatever you write will seem hilarious. You don't want to make a fool of yourself in that way," he said.

CITY READ

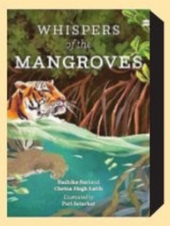
Exhibition showcases student work in architecture, planning and design

Open House 2026, an exhibition featuring projects by students of Nitte School of Architecture, Planning and Design, Yelahanka, was recently held on the NMIT campus. Inaugurated by Dr Sandeep Shastri, vice-president, Nitte, the exhibition's core aim was to engage students and visitors with ideas that bridge technical rigour and creative expression. The event presented a range of projects highlighting innovative thinking, craftsmanship and responses to contemporary spatial and urban challenges.

BOOK NOOK

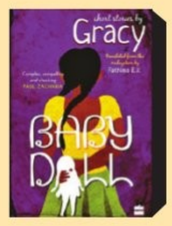
Secret Among the Stars
By Sarita Mandanna

It is part science fiction, part murder mystery – a thrilling ride that is sure to delight young readers. Spanning a period of 2,500 years, each tale is inspired by a real moment from India's rich and layered history.



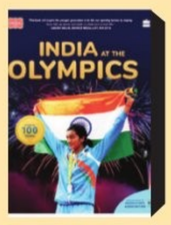
Whispers Of The Mangroves
By Radhika Suri, Chetna Singh Kaith, Pari Satarkar

A poetic and spectacular journey through the unique and precious mangroves of the world.



Baby Doll: Stories
By Fathima EV, Gracy

Rendered by award-winning translator Fathima EV, *Baby Doll* brings a comprehensive selection of Gracy's work to English readers.



India At The Olympics
By Seetha Natesh

Packed with rare images and colourful illustrations, this book traces the incredible history of the Olympics from the time of the Ancient Greek Olympics to its present, modern-day avatar.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Children perform *Kaaduva Dhwani*, a stage drama organised by Hanumanthanagara Bimba. Through expressive movement and energy, the story came alive on stage at Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- **All-purpose flour:** 1 cup
- **Brown sugar:** ½ cup
- **Vanilla essence:** ½ tsp
- **Chocolate chips:** ½ cup
- **Butter (softened):** ½ cup
- **White sugar:** 2 tbsp
- **Baking powder:** ½ tsp
- **Milk:** 2 tbsp
- **Salt:** a pinch

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 180°C and line a baking tray with parchment paper.
- In a bowl, cream the butter and white and brown sugar until light and smooth.
- Add milk and vanilla essence; mix well.
- Sift in the flour, baking powder and salt. Fold gently. Stir in the chocolate chips.
- Scoop the dough onto the tray, flatten slightly, leaving space between the cookies.
- Bake for 12-15 minutes until the edges are set, but centres remain soft.
- Cool completely; drizzle with melted dark chocolate if desired.

Contributed by **Lakshita Shekar,** Bengaluru

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

Is it true that caged birds feel better if sung to? Lately our parrot has been feeling listless, so we are worried.

Many birds do respond well to soft singing or calm speech, particularly if they are familiar with regular human interaction. Such sounds can offer mental stimulation and a sense of companionship, helping to ease boredom or mild stress. That said, vocal interaction alone cannot resolve medical problems. Listlessness in birds should always be taken seriously, as it may signal illness, nutritional imbalance, environmental stress, or issues with lighting or temperature. Reviewing her diet, housing, and daily routine is important. If the lethargy continues, a timely examination by a veterinarian is advised, as birds often conceal illness until it becomes advanced.

FITBIT

IS STRETCHING REALLY NECESSARY IF YOU ALREADY LIFT WEIGHTS?

Stretching has long been considered a non-negotiable part of fitness. From school PE classes to gym routines, flexibility training has traditionally been placed alongside strength, endurance, and cardiovascular health. But as training science evolves, an important question keeps surfacing: is dedicated stretching still necessary if you already do resistance training?

Emerging evidence shows that resistance training performed through a full range of motion can improve flexibility just as effectively as stretching alone. Exercises such as squats, Romanian deadlifts, lunges, and chest flies take joints and muscles through lengthened positions while under load. This process acts like a form of 'dynamic, loaded stretching.'

WHEN STRETCHING MAY NOT BE ESSENTIAL

- If you regularly lift weights with proper form and full range of motion, additional stretching may not provide significant extra benefits.
- Stretching alone does not meaningfully increase muscle strength or muscle size compared to resistance training.
- Time spent stretching may be less impactful than time spent improving movement quality and exercise execution.

STRETCHING DURING WARM-UPS AND COOL-DOWNS

- Static stretching before workouts can temporarily reduce strength and power if done excessively.
- Dynamic movements, light cardio, or mobility drills can prepare the body just as effectively for training.
- Cool-down stretching, passive rest, or low-intensity movement show similar recovery outcomes.

WHEN STRETCHING STILL ADDS VALUE

- Individuals with restricted mobility, joint stiffness, or past injuries may benefit from targeted stretching.
- Stretching can help relieve feelings of tightness and improve comfort during daily movement.
- It can also support relaxation and nervous system recovery when used intentionally.

If you're lifting weights regularly and training through a full range of motion, dedicated stretching may not be essential for improving flexibility. However, stretching can still be useful if you feel persistently tight, are returning from injury, or need to address specific mobility limitations.

Ultimately, flexibility does not come from stretching alone, it comes from how well and how fully you move.

By Indira Chavva, fitness expert, cult– a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Fitness Fusion

Enroll in the rhythm with the bamboo sticks, and get hands-on new experiences. This is an innovative online workout that combines salsa rhythm with bamboo stick flow.

WHEN: January 12, 6am
WHERE: Shara Salsa & Latin Dance Institute, Jayanagar
CALL: 98869 75979

Water Scatter

Escape the ordinary and immerse yourself in adventure and activities at the Kanva Dam Day Outing. Enjoy the serene waters while kayaking, paddle boating and more.

WHEN: January 12, 8am
WHERE: Triquetra (Aqua escape), Kannamangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Vine to Glass

Indulge in a place where wines begin their journey from grape to glass, an all-access tour of our winery followed by a wine-tasting session. Enjoy a delectable lunch at the restaurant afterwards.

WHEN: January 12, 11am and 1pm
WHERE: Rico Park (Winery & Vineyards), Yelahanka
CALL: 96069 67208

Stitched Stories

Kick-start your week making something special. Attend this workshop and craft a handmade leather diary with refillable pages, hand-cut covers and thoughtful details that reflect your style, designed to grow with every note, sketch and memory you add.

WHEN: January 12, 11am onwards
WHERE: Know How, Jayanagar
DETAILS: district.in

Monday Reset

Ease out of the Monday blues as DJ Harsh and DJ Veejay take over the console with a mix of crowd-favourite tracks. The midweek club night keeps things upbeat with a focus on music, movement and an easy dancefloor vibe.

WHEN: January 12, 8pm
WHERE: No Limmits Lounge and Club, Brigade Road
DETAILS: district.in

Keys & Clay

Get hands-on with clay at this couple-friendly keychain workshop, where you'll learn basic moulding and decorating techniques while crafting personalised keepsakes together.

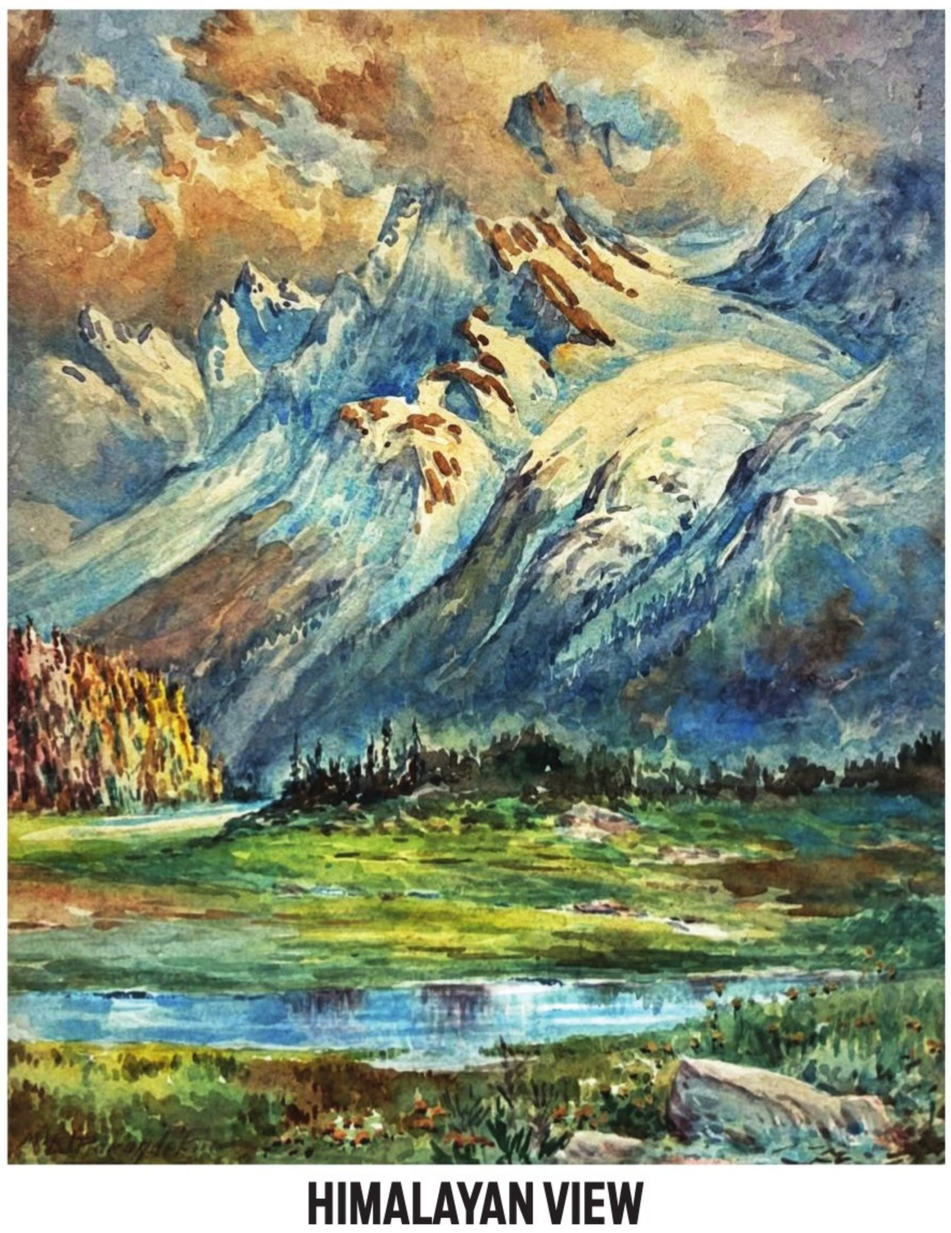
WHEN: January 12, 2pm
WHERE: Thirdspace – Art Café & Community, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Gear Up

Get behind the controls at this indoor purpose-built RC racing space designed for speed and precision. The tracks and equipment cater to beginners and experienced racers alike.

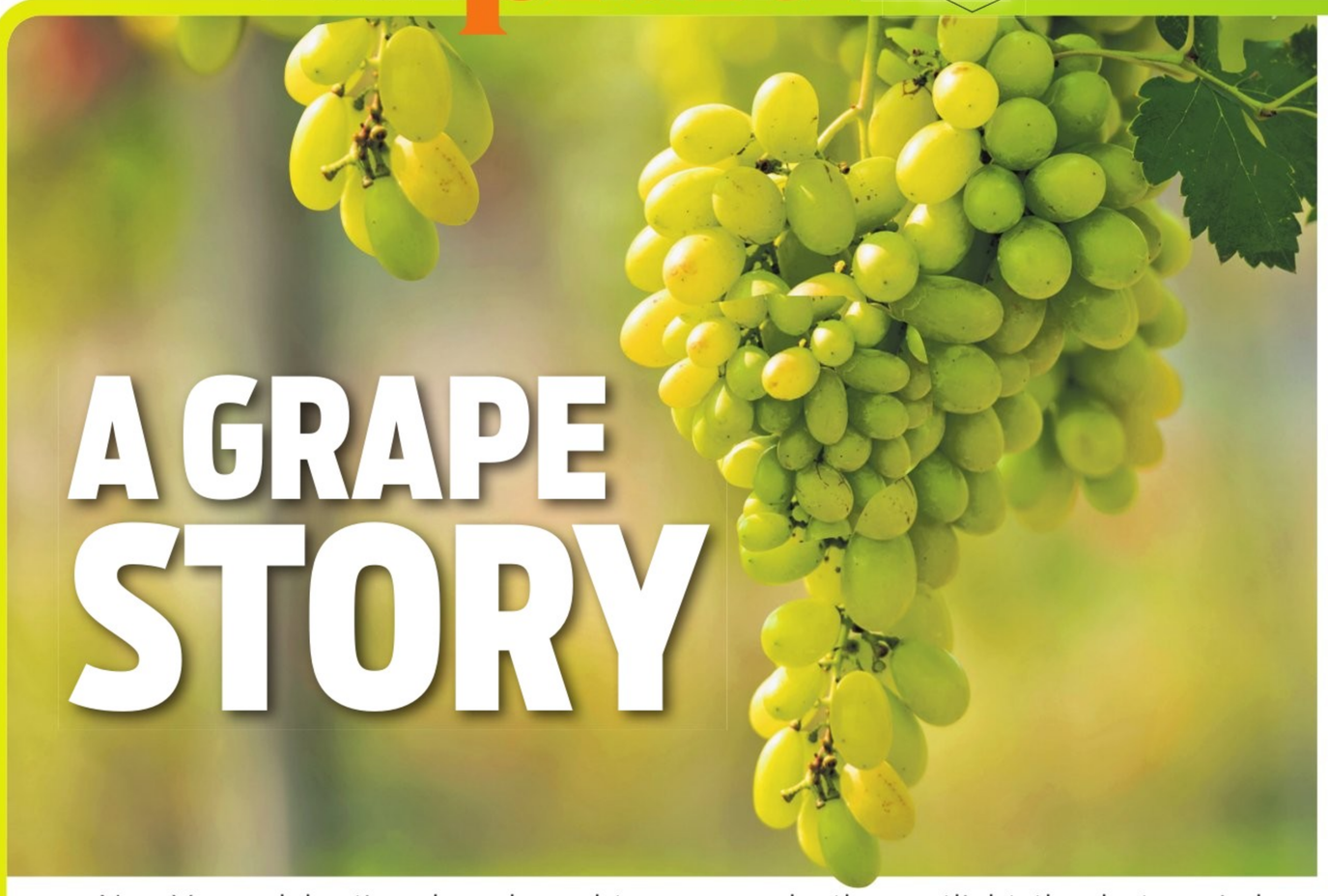
WHEN: January 12, 11am
WHERE: RACEiN PARC, Jayanagar
CALL: 91482 92936

ARTCORNER



HIMALAYAN VIEW

MK Parandekar's 'Himalayan 2' captures the vastness of the mountains through delicate perspective and light



A GRAPE STORY

New Year celebrations have brought grapes under the spotlight, thanks to a viral midnight ritual. Here's a look at the fruit's origins, health benefits and a few recipes

ABHIRAMI ANIL

AS the clock chimed at midnight welcoming 2026, a quirky ritual unfamiliar to the Indian household was found at the centre of New Year's Eve celebrations. People were no longer standing on the terrace, counting firecrackers. Instead, they were crouched under a table, phone propped at the chair legs, screen on with the live countdown, waiting for midnight to strike – chew, wish, swallow and repeat until the twelfth grape was popped into the mouth.

Eating twelve grapes, a ritual originating from Spanish tradition, has suddenly emerged as a New Year's midnight obsession. The idea is simple: eating twelve grapes exactly at midnight, each representing the twelve months in a year, each believed to carry a wish, a rationale rooted in optimism and setting intentions for the entire year.

A bunch of grapes propelled the speed and creativity of e-commerce platforms. Grocery delivery apps, swiftly sensing the cultural movement and turning it into a marketing strategy. Custom-built sections popped up overnight with titles like 'New Year Rituals' and 'Lucky Grapes', along with striking taglines such as '12 grapes. 12 wishes. One lucky New Year.' As demand surged, packaging swiftly changed, and grapes were rebranded as 'Good Luck Grapes' and '12 Grapes. At 12 am. For 12 Months Of Grapeness.' Stocks sold out in minutes, urging restocks.

Since it's everywhere and the talk of the town, it's time to peel back the layers of grapes.

Older than written history

Grapes are no strangers to households. Archaeological evidence suggests grapes were one of the earliest fruits to be cultivated, with traces reaching back to over 6000 years. From ancient Mesopotamia to Egypt, Greece and Rome, grapes were more than a nutriment – they were considered as holy symbols associating the fruit with divinity, ritual and purity. In Greek mythology, grapes were linked to Dionysus, the god of wine and celebration. For the Romans, growing vineyards was not just for farming; it marked a civilisation, and was a religious duty.

The colonial connection

The spread of grapes around the globe owes much to European empires. Grapevine travelled all the way with missionaries, traders and settlers. Grapes were transformed from a regional crop to a global commodity through colonial trade routes.

India's affair with grapes

In India, Maharashtra leads in the cultivation of grapes, accounting for the largest production of grapes in the country. Regions like Nashik, often known as India's wine capital, have earned global recognition for the export of fresh grapes.

Karnataka is the second largest producer of grapes, primarily known for quality raisins and table grapes, especially in Bijapur and Bagalkot districts. Followed by Tamil Nadu being the third in the list, resulting in a significant production of grapes specifically in districts like Theni, Krishnagiri and Coimbatore.

Grapes: a 'luxe' at times

Not all grapes are humble. In Japan, Ruby Roman Grapes, known for their premium quality and exceptional size, make it a luxurious Japanese variety. Cultivated under strict standards, these varieties are round, sweet, and low-acidic in nature.

A single bunch of these varieties is often gifted as a symbol of prestige and esteem.

Interesting facts

- There are around 8,000 varieties of grapes worldwide
- Grapes float in water due to their high water content
- In ancient Greece and Rome, grapes were used as a medicine for wound healing
- Among the varieties of grapes, Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the most widely planted varieties for wine making
- Grapes are rich in antioxidants like resveratrol

This proves that a simple fruit can be of extraordinary value depending on where and how it is grown.

Tiny yet powerful

Grapes carry multiple health benefits. Rich in antioxidants like resveratrol, they aid in improving heart health, circulation and help fight inflammation. Grapes also contain vitamins, natural sugars for quick energy and compounds that aid skin and brain health. Interestingly, its health benefits lie in the skin. However, nutritionists advise cleaning grapes thoroughly to remove the residue of pesticides before consuming.

Green grapes vs black grapes

Does colour matter? Yes, green grapes are known for their mild sweetness. These are rich sources of vitamin K and C, along with their association with hydration and quick energy.

On the other hand, black grapes are rich in antioxidants and anthocyanins, associated with anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties. While both varieties offer similar benefits, green grapes may be an apt choice as a refreshing snack, hydration, quick energy and digestion support. Black grapes will be a better alternative for a high antioxidant content.

The midnight grape ritual may be a passing trend, but the fruit's presence in our lives is anything but fleeting. As conversations around them continue, trying them in a new form may be the simplest way to turn a New Year trend into a lasting habit.

Grape Salad

Ingredients

- Grapes: 2 kg
- Cream cheese: 250 g
- Walnuts: ½ cup (chopped)
- Sour cream: 1 cup
- Granulated sugar: ½ cup
- Vanilla extract: 1 tsp
- Brown sugar: 2 tbsp (for the topping)

Method: In a large bowl, mix the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Gently stir in the grapes until they are all covered in the creamy mixture. In a separate small bowl, mix the brown sugar and walnuts together, then sprinkle them over the top. Cover the bowl and let it sit in the fridge for at least an hour (or overnight) and serve it cold.

Concord Grape Jelly

Ingredients

- Water: ½ cup
- Grapes: 1.5 kg washed
- White sugar: 7 cups
- Pouch liquid pectin: 6 tbsp

Method: Start by washing and stemming the grapes, then simmer them with a little water for 10 minutes until they are soft. Strain the mixture through a cloth to collect the juice equal to 4 cups. Mix the juice with the sugar in a large pot, bring it to a boil, and then stir in the liquid pectin. Let it boil hard for exactly one minute before taking it off the heat, Finally, pour the liquid into clean jars, seal them, and boil the jars in water for five minutes to ensure they stay fresh.

(Alchohol consumption is injurious to health)

Green Grapes Cocktail Delight

Ingredients

- Freshly squeezed lemon juice: 2 tbsp
- Sugar: 4 tsp
- Green grapes: 1 cup
- Vodka: 60 ml
- Sprite or soda: 500 ml
- Mint leaves and lemon slices to garnish
- Ice cubes: 6-8

Method

Mash green grapes with sugar in a blender. Pass the mixture through a strainer to extract the juice. Now, combine grape juice with vodka, lemon juice and a splash of Sprite in a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice. Strain the mixture into a glass with ice cubes and garnish with lemon slices and mint leaves.

Grape Mojito Mocktail

Ingredients

- Green grapes: 1 cup
- Water: 2 cups
- Black salt: 1 tsp
- Honey: 1 tbsp
- Lemon juice: 2 tbsp
- Mint leaves: 2 tbsp
- Chaat masala (as required)
- Ice cubes (as required)
- Chilled soda/Sprite/ 7UP (as required)

Method

Blend the fresh grapes with water until the mixture is completely smooth. Pour the blended mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a bowl, pressing firmly to extract the juice. Stir in the honey, lemon juice, black salt, and mint leaves. Mix thoroughly to ensure the flavours are well-incorporated. To prepare the serving glass, moisten the rims of your serving glasses with a lemon wedge, then dip them into chaat masala for a savoury coating. Fill the prepared glasses with ice cubes, pour in the grape base, and top with a splash of soda. Assemble and serve.

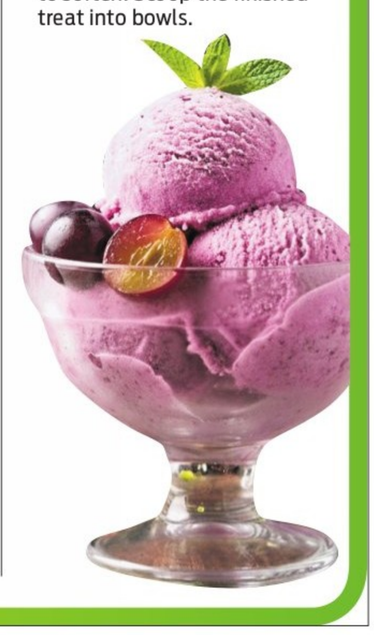
Grape Sorbet

Ingredients

Grapes: 500 g , Sugar: 100 g, Lemon juice: 1 tbsp

Method

Wash and destem 500 grams of seedless grapes, then freeze them for at least four hours or overnight. Dissolve 100 grams of sugar in 120 ml of water over medium heat to create a simple syrup, allowing it to cool. Next, blend the frozen grapes with the cooled syrup and a tablespoon of lemon juice. Pour this base into a shallow, freezer-safe container and freeze for an additional four hours until firm. Let the sorbet sit at room temperature for 5-10 minutes to soften. Scoop the finished treat into bowls.



SMART ADS

WE BUY Old Watches Rolex, Omega, Hublot, Patek Philippe, AP, Breguet, VC, Jaeger, IWC, Cartier. Vipul: 9619303232

FOR SALE
Office Building @Richmond Town
Build-Up Area: 15000 Sq.ft.
Individual Office
Building For Sale. Plot area : 3700 sqft. Built-up Area: 15000 sqft. (G + 4 Flr),
JP NAGAR
3rd Phase Premium Plot For Sale 60 X 90 - 5400 Sqft - 5400 Sqft South Facing Plot For Sale In Prime Location.
Contact - KP REALTY
7899930039 Brokers Excuse.

MANYATHA RESIDENCY
NAGWARA
PREMIUM BDA PLOT
50X80, 45x60
FOR SALE
@RS.22K/SQFT.
West Facing Plot Available for Sale. Behind MANYATA TECH PARK.
CONTACT KP REALTY
7899930039

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Sujay Sarkar,** son of *Tushar Kanti Sarkar* and ***Neelam Sarkar,*** wife of Sujay Sarkar both residing at E-1401, Nagarjuna Maple Heights, Marathalli-K.R. Puram, Outer Ring Road, Opposite Royal Enfield Bike Showroom Mahadevapura, Bengaluru–560 016, hereby wish to change the name of our daughter to **"Hrishikaa Sarkar"**, from **"Riya Sarkar"**, vide affidavit (Certificate No. **IN-KA457755131600638Y**) sworn before notary ***Onkarappa N.R (Regd No.12466,)*** Bengaluru on *8th Jan 2026.*

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KUKIRA POKER ABU** (Old Name) S/o **KUKIRA POKER SAHEB** and Holder Passport No : P3885017 Residing at No 83, Thimmaiah Road, Nehrupuram, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru- 560001 have changed my name to **KUKIRA POKER ABU SAB** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 10/1/2026 Before Notary **Idnabba** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SURESH RAJU .Y,** S/o Sri Y. Venkata Raju, age 43 years, R/at No. 182, 3rd Main Road, MS Ramaiah City Layout, Near Sai Baba Temple, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560 078 do hereby declare that my correct name is **SURESH RAJU .Y,** and the same is recorded in all my records such as Aadhar Card, Pan Card etc., but in my passport my name is wrongly mentioned as **SURESH .Y** instead of full name **SURESH RAJU .Y,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SURESH RAJU .Y** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 9-1-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.P. GANDHI** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RICHA SHRIVASTAVA** (New Name) previously **RICHA SINHA,** date of birth:- 14/05/1985, W/o. Mr. Sandeep Kumar Srivastava, address at C-304, Sekhar Bellevue, Balagere Road, Varthur, Bengaluru-560087. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'RICHA SINHA'** to **'RICHA SHRIVASTAVA'** Vide Affidavit dated 10.01.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GIRI KUTHETHOOR,** S/o. Mr. Laxmipathi Bhat K, aged about 57 years, residing at No. 154, "Akshaya", 4th Main, 10th Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Nimishamba Temple, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560098, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Giri Prasad Laxmipathi Kuthethoor, Giriprasad K.L.** to **GIRI KUTHETHOOR**, vide affidavit dated 09.01.2026, sworn to before K.S. Giridhar, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRATHIBHA KAMMACHCHI SHESHACHALA, W/o. Suneel Ramachandra Joshi, Residing At No 376, Dattapekshe Building, 7th Cross Sri Krishna Temple Nisarga Layout VTC Dharwad. Karnataka-580003 have changed my name to SUMA JOSHI vide affidavit dated: 10.01.2026 before notary ARAVIND PATIL.G.G., Bengaluru.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I **AMIT VEERABHADRA SAMBRANI** S/o Veerabhadra Rudrappa Sambrani, Resident at No.32/1, Adki Oni, Mangalwar Peth, VTC: Dharwad-580001. Hereby solemnly declare that as per my Aadhar card and Pan card my correct name is **AMIT VEERABHADRA SAMBRANI** but in my passport my name is wrongly mentioned as AMIT. Request the concerned authorities to do the necessary changes to **AMIT VEERABHADRA SAMBRANI**. Vide affidavit dated 09-01-2026 sworn to before Notary, **T Venkategowda** Bengaluru.

Change of Name

I, **Shankarappa Sirur aged about 64 years S/o Madivalappa.** Residing at # 59, 3rd cross Manjunatha Layout, Mangammanapalya, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 068, have changed my name to **SHANKARAPPA M. SHIRUR** vide affidavit dated 09/01/2026 sworn before notary M. Rajendra.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **WANDRE NITIN DEORAOJI** S/o **DEORAOJI WANDRE,** permanent resident of CRPF Road, Near Hanuman Mandir, Shivangaon, Nagpur Airport, PO-Nagpur Airport, Dist : Nagpur, Maharashtra – 440005 and presently residing at TMQ 206/01, HQ TC, Air Force, Hebbal, Bangalore – 560006, Karnataka have changed my Name from **WANDRE NITIN DEORAOJI** to **NITIN DEORAOJI WANDRE** vide affidavit dated 10-01-2026 before Notary **JALANDHARA**, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **TULSI .R,** D/o Raju V, age 25 years, R/at No. 130, Vinayaka Layout, Near by Sri Yellamma Temple, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru-560 078 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **CELSIA R.** to **TULSI R.**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **TULSI R.** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 08-01-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Smt. Sheela Thammaiah**, D/o. Thammaiah & W/o. Harish Lilhariya, Aged about 37 years, Residing at No. 18, 10th 'E' Cross, Sanjeevini Nagar, Moodalapalya, Bengaluru - 560 072, do hereby declare that **Smt. Sheela Thammaiah** and **Smt. Sheela Harish** refer to one and the same person, namely myself. Vide affidavit dated 10.01.2026 sworn to before Sharada, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAMESH BHAT K.,** S/o Late Mukhyaprana Bhat, aged about 48 years, R/at No.8A, "Sri Bharathi Nivasa", 1st Cross, Near Gurushree School Gate, Doddabidarakallu, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560073, my name had been wrongly recorded as **RAMESHA BHAT K** in my 10th (KSEE Board) Certificate, **RAMESH BHAT KADDYA** in PAN and later in my Passport it is recorded as **KADDYA RAMESHA BHAT** vide affidavit dated 10/11/2026, sworn before the Notary Advocate, **B S PADMAPRASAD** Advocate & Notary Public Govt of India Phone No. 9731971291

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BEENA RANI MARUTHI RAO TEKUMALLA, Resident of No. 1/2 Shreya, Gublala Subramanya Pura Post, Bengaluru -560061, Karnataka, have changed my name to BEENA RAO TEKUMALLA vide affidavit dated: 09.01.2026 before advocate and notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN .K, Bengaluru.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAIK MOHAMMED NIZAMUDDIN** S/o Shaikh Mohammed Rahamathulla age 25 years, residing at # 42, 3rd cross, 3rd phase, Chamundeshwarinagar, VTC Laggere, PO Peenya Small industries,' Bengaluru North District, Bengaluru - 560058, My Fathers Correct & actual name is Shaikh Mohammed Rahamathulla, in my SSLC Marks card, my fathers name is incorrectly mentioned as Shaik Mohammed Rahamath due to clericle error. that Shaik Mohammed Rahamath & Shaikh Mohammed Rahamathulla refers to one & the same person, namely my father. vide affidavit dated 06 Jan 2026. sworn before Notary P.Anuradha, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAHESHA MAHADEVU** and **RAJANI RAJU** residing at #1322, 14th Main, 7th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076 hereby state that in my minor daughter **VEDANSHI MAHESHA's** school record the 1) Father name is mentioned as **MAHESHA M** instead of **MAHESHA MAHADEVU** 2) Mother's name is mentioned as **RAJANI R** instead of **RAJANI RAJU** and her name is mentioned as **VEDANSHI M** instead of **VEDANSHI MAHESHA**. Names have been rectified as said above vide affidavit dated 20-12-2025 before notary A.S.Narayana Reddy, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CATHAN AVINASH .D,** S/o Mr. Dominic Savio .N.M and Mrs. Anita Dominic, R/at NO. 03, 4th Cross, 2nd Lane, Lakshmaiah Garden, near Panchmuki Temple, Subbanna Palya, Banaswadi, Bengaluru-33 do hereby declare that I desire to adopt and use the surname **"DOMINIC"** instead of initial **"D"**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **CATHAN AVINASH DOMINIC for all purposes,** vide affidavit dated 09-01-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **VANI .G.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) NIKIL GIRISH S/o Girish Mavathur Narsimhe Gowda, Residing at No.220, 1st Main, Vinnayaka Layout Ullallu Upanagar, Bengaluru 560056, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) NIKIL GIRISH TO (NEW NAME) NIKHIL GIRISH** vide affidavit dated 10-01-2026 sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Bharathi Palani**, also known as Bharthi, wife of Late Sri. S. Palani Velu, Aged 65 years, currently residing at No. 238, 5th 'B' Cross, Domlur Layout, Bangalore - 560 071, do hereby declare that **Bharthi** (my maiden name) and **Bharathi Palani** (my name after marriage) refer to one and the same person, which is me, I also declare that the date of birth and the name mentioned in my Aadhar card and in my PAN card is true and correct. Vide affidavit dated 19.12.2025 sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

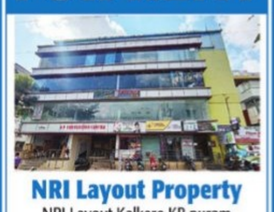
I, SUDHA RANGARAJAN, C/O. N R RAJAN, Residing at #E4 204, Landmark Dreamz Apartments, Singapura Village, Near Singapura Bus Stop, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru North-560097, Karnataka, India, have changed my name to SUDHA RAJAN vide affidavit dated: 10.01.2026 before advocate and notary C. N. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MATTUR GANGADHAR VASUMATHI** D/o. Gangadhar Mattur Krishna Avadhani, W/o. Ramesh Krishnapura Ramaswamy, R/a No. 204, Ratnakunj, 5th Main, 4th Phase, C.K. Achukat Telephone Exchange, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085 Declare that my Correct Date of Birth is **05-11-1974** but in my Passport it is Wrongly mentioned as **15-11-1974.** Vide affidavit Dated: 07.01.2026 before Notary A. Manjula, Bengaluru.

WANTED
Factory Canteen and Hotel in Peenya, Bangalore, has South and North Indian style cooks and Hotel-Receptionist (M/F) and MANAGER
Food and lodging facilities are available.
Contact:
8970872429,9512799918, 9591810812, 9008408811

FOR RENT



NRI Layout Property
NRI Layout Kalkere KR puram
Bangalore Basement parking 4500 sqft
G+ 3rd Floors Each Floor 4500 Sqft.

Kittaganur Property
- COMMERCIAL - PLACES for Rent @ Kittaganur KR Puram - Bangalore
G floor 8000 sqft - 1st floor 8500 sqft
Call: 9342529020 8880929020

For Smart Ads Contact
Mr. Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

INTIMACY MUST ALWAYS SERVE THE STORY AND BE HANDLED WITH CARE: MALAIKA VASUPAL

A SHARADHAA

FROM television living rooms to cinema screens, Malaika Vasupal loves to showcase her talents under the spotlight. The actor became a familiar face with popular television serials before moving into films with Upadhyaksha and *Vidyapati*. Now, she steps into her most visible phase yet with her third film, *Cult*, set for release on January 23. Malaika stands at a turning point of opportunity and identity. Confident, aware of her choices, and dedicated to her work, she is charting her own path in Kannada cinema.

Currently travelling across districts with co-star Zaid Khan as part of the film's extensive promotions, Malaika sees this phase not as routine publicity but as a personal extension of the film itself. "This isn't about finishing one shoot and jumping into the next," she states confidently. "This is our cinema. It's my responsibility to give my best. I don't just act in a film. I carry it."

However, she agrees that the level of exposure feels new, exciting, and a little overwhelming. "My exposure has gone to the next level," she admits. "With *Cult*, the events, the crowds, the reactions—I was nervous about how people would receive me. But that nervousness pushes me forward. It keeps me alert and grounded."

Directed by Anil Kumar, who previously worked with Malaika on *Upadhyaksha*, *Cult* is an action romantic entertainer. The film is produced by Loki Cinemas and presented by KVN Productions, showing strong industry support and wide distribution. Music plays a large role in the film's early buzz. Composed by Arjun Janya, the first single, Ayyyo Shivane, mostly focuses on Malaika and has already become a hit. "There is a lot of work that has gone into the song," says Malaika, adding, "Even my character has two shades and many details, which I can't reveal much about right now."

Although she is paired with Zaid Khan, sharing screen time with a star like Rachita Ram could have easily sparked insecurity for a young actor still finding her position. However, Malaika prefers clarity over comparison. "People warned me, 'Won't you get sidelined?' But I never saw it that way," she explains. "Director Anil Kumar knows how to balance characters. He sees my strengths from Upadhyaksha. Both roles are important. Her character brings an emotional depth, and mine brings a kick."

Confirming that Rachita and her share screen in *Cult*, the actor is clear that there was no place for any insecurity. "I focus on doing my work. Rachita brings her experience, and I bring my honesty. What matters is what serves the film."

Malaika also discusses personal boundaries when it comes to working in cinema. "I'm clear about my limits, and I will never cross my boundaries. For example, I don't do kissing scenes," says the actor, adding, "Intimacy must always serve the story and be handled with care. You don't need to overdo it. A good director knows how to convey emotion without relying on excesses."

While *Cult* is essentially a love story, Malaika feels its modern writing makes it different. "The script, screenplay, and even the song lyrics are all written by Anil Kumar himself. He has studied today's generation. The dialogue reflects how people really talk and think now," she explains.

A still from the film

When asked if the presence of Zaid Khan and Rachita Ram overshadows her role, Malaika stays grounded. "In films, heroes naturally get the first impressions. But if the film succeeds, every character finds its place," she says. "For me, this role takes me beyond my first two films. If a role feels challenging, that's exactly why I should take it."

Touching upon the performance of her co-star, Malaika says, "I can see myself in Zaid, in the way he is disciplined, his obsession with doing things right, the hunger to succeed, etc... Also, my mother appreciated his screen presence in *Cult*." Malaika believes her journey so far is a personal victory in itself. With no industry background and early resistance from family, Malaika recognises how far she has come. "From being opposed at home to standing here today, I finally feel I'm getting what I deserve. I'm proud of this path," she signs off.

Malaika Vasupal

With Cult set for release on January 23, the actor opens up about starring alongside Zaid Khan and sharing screen space with Rachita Ram. She reflects on personal boundaries in cinema and carving her space without industry backing

Abbott Elementary duo to create new comedy series

CE FEATURES

NETFLIX has ordered a series adaptation of Justin Halpern's 2012 memoir *I Suck at Girls*, which will be written by Halpern and Patrick Schumacker, who both serve as co-showrunners on *Abbott Elementary* alongside Quinta Brunson.

The story, based on Halpern's romantic misadventures with childhood infatuations and losing his virginity, will see three high school sophomores stumbling through adolescent romances while understanding their identity. Bill Lawrence, executive producer of *Shrinking and Scrubs*, is on board under his Doozer banner along with Warner Bros TV. On the other hand, *Abbott Elementary* is currently airing its fifth season.

Black Mirror renewed for Season 8

CE FEATURES

CRITICALLY acclaimed dystopian sci-fi series *Black Mirror* is returning for an eighth season on Netflix. Creator Charlie Brooker, who is currently writing the upcoming season, confirmed the news. The seventh season of the show was released in April 2025, consisted of six episodes.

In a conversation with Netflix, Brooker said, "*Black Mirror* will return, and hopefully it'll be more *Black Mirror* than ever. Luckily, it does have a future, so I can confirm that *Black Mirror* will return, just in time for reality to catch up with it. So, that's exciting. That chunk of my brain has already been activated and is whirring away." The seventh season received several nominations at the Golden Globe Awards, including best television limited series, anthology series, or motion picture made for television, as well as best actor nominations for Rashida Jones and Paul Giamatti.

Wild Tiger Safari has the same creative vibe as my *ABCD* days: Remo D'Souza

Remo D'Souza

A SHARADHAA

THE teaser of *Wild Tiger Safari*, directed by Chandramouli, best known as the dialogue writer of the *KGF* franchise, was unveiled at a grand event held at Dubai's Global Village. The launch gained added prominence with Bollywood filmmaker and ace choreographer Remo D'Souza releasing the teaser and extending his support to the team.

Speaking at the event, Remo drew a comparison with his own filmmaking experience. "When I directed *ABCD*, there was a certain energy and vibe on set. I sensed a similar spirit while watching *Wild Tiger Safari*'s teaser. Every artiste seems to have contributed creatively, and that reflects on screen." he said.

Wild Tiger Safari marks Chandramouli's next directorial outing after Dilmaar. Describing the film, the director said it is rooted in the gangster genre but driven by stylised action and performance. "The production house approached me with the idea of blending tiger-like movement and dance with mass elements. Think of it like joining dots to create a rangoli. The actors were already in place, and I had to shape the story around them."

The Dubai launch is being seen as a landmark moment for Kannada cinema, as this is reportedly the first time a Kannada film's promotional event has been hosted at Global Village — a venue that seldom opens its doors to film launches, even for major Bollywood productions.

The film stars Sheethil Poojary in the lead role, with Nimika Ratnakar as the female protagonist. Conceived as a bilingual project, *Wild Tiger Safari* is slated for release in both Kannada and Hindi, underlining the makers' aim to reach audiences beyond regional boundaries. The film is produced under the VK Film banner by Dubai-based producers Vinod Kumar, Kishore Kumar, Prasanna Kumar and Gurudatta Ganiga.

Chandramouli revealed that around six days of shooting remain, including a song and a few action sequences. The post-production work is also currently underway. The teaser hints at a gritty action-revenge narrative, presenting Sheethil in a rugged, mass-driven avatar backed by stylised action set pieces.

The supporting cast includes Avinash and Achyuth Kumar. Adding a Bollywood touch are popular dancers and performers Dharmesh and Sushant Pujari. The film also features artistes associated with the hit Hindi franchise *ABCD*, enhancing its cross-industry appeal.

Music for *Wild Tiger Safari* is composed by Sachin Basrur. The makers are currently eyeing a theatrical release towards the end of March or early April.

The film, directed by Chandramouli, unveiled the teaser at a grand event held at Dubai's Global village

Neena Neena offers a window into the world of *Rakkasapuradol*

CE FEATURES

AFTER attracting attention with its first-look poster and teaser, *Rakkasapuradol*, featuring Raj B Shetty in the lead role, gives audiences a quieter look into its emotional space through the melody '*Neena Neena*...' The song reflects the film's tone and balances the intensity promised by its crime-thriller story.

The track, composed by Arjun Janya and sung by Vijay Prakash, focuses on simplicity and restraint, allowing the emotions to take centre stage. Written by Manjunath BS, the visuals of the song showcase Raj alongside Baby Nisha, creating a gentle contrast to the darker themes explored in the film.

Directed by Ravi Sarang, who has spent nearly ten years working with filmmaker Jogi Prem, *Rakkasapuradol* marks the next step in his journey as an independent director. Set in and around Kollegala, the film delves into the notion that every person carries both light and shadow within them. According to the director, the narrative focuses on how a person faces and overcomes their destructive impulses, framing the story around both internal conflict and external crime.

Produced under the KN Entertainments banner by stunt director K. Ravivarma, the film also features Swatishta Krishna and Archana Kottige, with B Suresh, Aniruddha Bhat, Gopal Deshpande, Jahangir, Gaurav Shetty, and Siddanna in key supporting roles. With cinematography by William David, editing by K.M. Prakash, and dialogues by Kranti Kumar, the film is set for release on February 6, and the trailer is expected to be out soon.

A still from the film

Mardaani 3 gets early release date

CE FEATURES

MARDAANI 3, the third instalment of the popular Rani Mukerji starrer female cop franchise, will now arrive in theatres a month sooner than earlier planned. The film will release on January 30, the makers announced on Saturday evening.

Produced by Yash Raj Films, *Mardaani 3* is produced by Yash Raj Films and directed by debutant Abhiraj Minawala. While Pradeep Sarkar directed the first film (2014), *Mardaani 2* (2019) was directed by Gopi Puthran. *Mardaani 3*'s technical crew includes cinematographer Artur Zurawski, editor Yasha Jaidev Ramchandani, and production designer Kailash Sahu. Aayush Gupta has penned the screenplay and dialogues, besides co-writing the story with Deepak Kingrani and Baljeet Singh Marwah.

Meanwhile, Rani was last seen in Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway, which was released in 2023 and also starred Anirban Bhattacharya, Neena Gupta and Jim Sarbh in pivotal roles.